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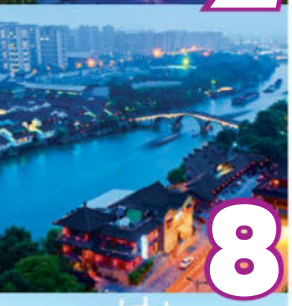
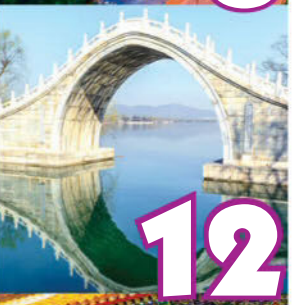
Beijing Through Time

VISIT…





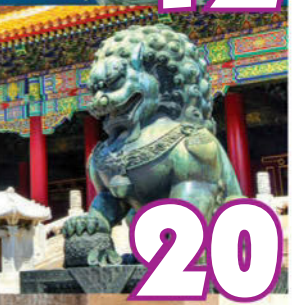


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illustration by Tim Oliphant

EAGLE EYE

We have hidden 4 eyes like the one above in this month's DIG issue (print and digital edition). See how fast you can find each—but, while you are looking, check out the articles in this issue.

And, don't take a peek at the answers on page 41 until you have found all four eagle eyes!

Musings

A book is like a garden carried in a pocket.
—*Chinese proverb*

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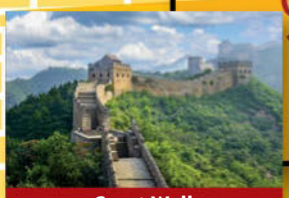
China's Capital City

Summer Palace



Great Wall

5 Cool Chinese Character Facts

1. Written Chinese uses characters, each of which has its own meaning. It does not have an alphabet—the letters of which represent sounds.
2. There are more than 50,000 Chinese characters. The average high-school-educated person knows about 4,000 characters.
3. The Chinese writing system is one of the oldest writing systems still in use today. It dates back more than 3,000 years.
4. In ancient China, only upper-class children learned to read and write.
5. The first Japanese texts were written in Chinese, and today Japanese still uses about 1,000 Chinese characters.

Hutongs

Forbidden City

Tiananmen Square

Temple of Heaven

Grand Canal

About the cover: Travel to Beijing today, and you will see many of these guardian lions. And guard, they did, and still do! For more about them, and to find out what's under the left paw of the lion on the cover, go to page 36.

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ONE OF THE G

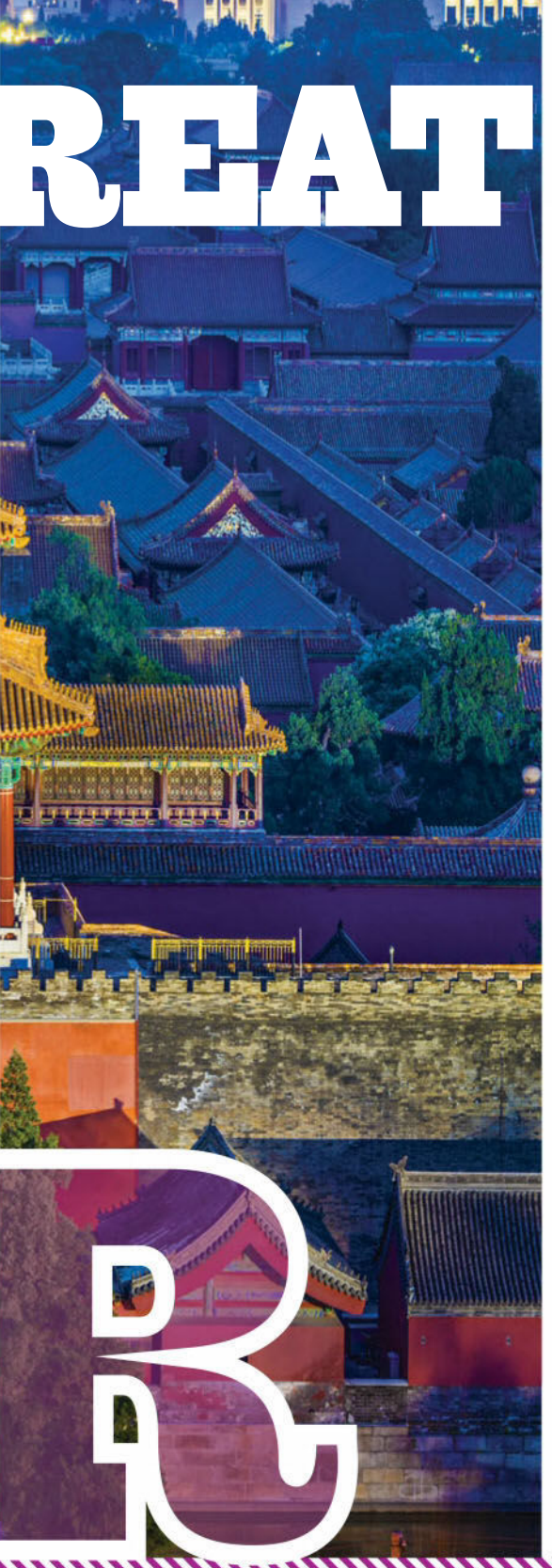
by Monique Nagel-Angermann

FOUR

China's Major Dynasties

Note: The Xia was the first dynasty. The Qing was the last dynasty. It was followed by the Republic Period (1912–1949). The People's Republic of China was established by Mao Zedong, the first chairman, on October 1, 1949, and continues to the present day.

Xia	Shang	Zhou	Qin	Han
c. 2100–1600 B.C.	1600–1050 B.C.	1046–256 B.C.	221–206 B.C.	206 B.C.–A.D. 220



REAT

P

China's Hongwu emperor died in 1398, just 30 years after he had founded the Ming dynasty. Since his eldest son predeceased him, his grandson Zhu Yunwen succeeded to the throne. Not all, however, proceeded smoothly following his succession. Zhu Di, the Hongwu emperor's fourth son, kept himself well informed about what was happening in the palace and the capital city of Nanjing. So, when Zhu Yunwen began to demote his uncles, Zhu Di overthrew him.

The Move North

A capable and ambitious leader, Zhu Di had proved himself effective in military matters as well. Yet, even though he was now the ruler with the official name of Yongle Emperor, he felt insecure in Nanjing, where there were still the bureaucrats of the old regime. So, he looked north, where his power was more assured and made Beijing his capital city. To provide Beijing with food and supplies, Zhu Di ordered that the Grand Canal be repaired (see also pages 8–10). He also undertook the planning of the Forbidden City and oversaw its construction between 1406 and 1420. Nanjing continued as a second capital for a while. Records show that some officials preferred to live comfortably in the south, away from the power struggles of the imperial court.

Then and Now

This was not the first time Beijing had served as a capital city. It had done so for smaller kingdoms since antiquity. But, its location, so close to the country's northern border, left it open to threats from horsemen to the north. In addition, it was far from the economic centers located around the delta of the Yangtze, Asia's third longest river. Nevertheless, following the fall of the Ming, Beijing continued as China's capital city under the Qing dynasty. With the fall of the Qing in 1912 and the formation of the Republic, the capital moved back to Nanjing. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 by Mao Zedong, Beijing has been the country's official capital.

◀Beijing's North Gate leading into the Imperial City

Sui	Jin	Tang	Song	Yuan	Ming	Qing
A.D. 265–420	A.D. 581–618	A.D. 618–906	A.D. 960–1279	A.D. 1279–1368	A.D. 1368–1644	A.D. 1644–1912

There were 13 gates along the wall that surrounded the city of Nanjing. One of the most important was Zhonghua to the south—pictured here.

The Others

Today, Beijing is recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China. The others were Chang'an (present-day Xi'an) in Shaanxi province, Luoyang in Henan province, and Nanjing in Jiangsu province. Chang'an served as the capital during the Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, and Tang dynasties. In early China, the city was considered an important political center and a cultural and economic center. When nomads threatened invasion from the north or there were difficulties with the food supply, the country's rulers looked to the city of Luoyang, which lay farther to the east, as a second capital. The city of Nanjing, which was located in the economic heartland of the Chinese Empire, served as the capital in the third century A.D. and then again in the 900s. After the Hongwu emperor defeated the Mongols in 1368, he chose Nanjing as the capital of his newly formed Ming dynasty.

Seven—Actually!

If we look closely at Chinese history, we see that there were more than four great capitals. Kaifeng in Henan and Hangzhou in Zhejiang, the capitals of the Northern and the Southern Song, were added to the list in the beginning of the 20th century. Archaeological discoveries from the Shang dynasty, which had its center in Anyang during the second millennium B.C., added another city to the list. Thus, Beijing is not only one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, but also one of the Seven Great Capitals.

Monique Nagel-Angermann *studied Chinese and Near Eastern archaeology and philology. She teaches Chinese history at the Westfaelische-Wilhelms University in Muenster, Germany.*

What's in a Name?

The geographic location of Beijing has never changed, but its name has!

1271 Kublai Khan, the fifth emperor of the Yuan, or Mongol, dynasty chooses to call the city **Dadu** ("Great Capital").

1368 The first Ming emperor, the Hongwu emperor, changes the name to **Beiping** ("Northern Peace").

1421 Zhu Di, the third Ming emperor, prefers the name **Beijing** ("Northern Capital")—the name still used today.

1600s European Christian missionaries and other westerners in China transcribe the name **Beijing** as **Peking**. This spelling is rarely used today, except in reference to Peking Man and Peking duck.

1928 The Republic of China restores **Beiping**, also spelled "Peiping" and "Peip'ing," for postal and international communications.

1979 The People's Republic of China authorizes the **pinyin** writing system and **Beijing** again becomes the official form of the name.

—Gloria W. Lannom

Pinyin is a system for transliterating Chinese characters into the alphabet used by the English language.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

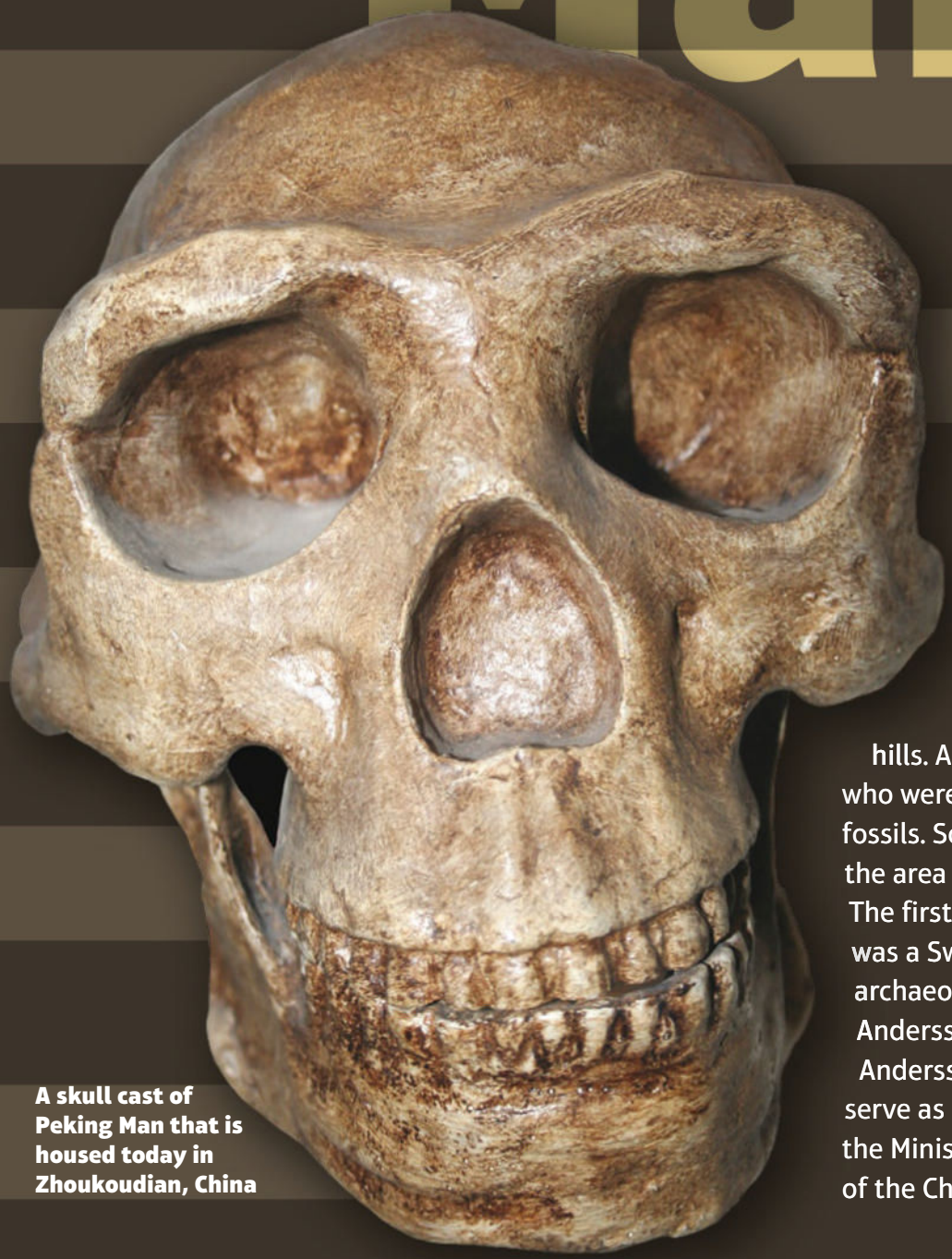
World Heritage Sites is a project that is part of a program of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), an agency created to promote peace and security through international collaboration in education, science, and culture. Throughout the 20th century, thoughtful people around the world were becoming concerned about monuments and places linked to the ancestral history of all mankind. Many cultural and natural sites were under serious threat from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, severe weather conditions, wars, looting, and new construction. Immediate international efforts were needed to save them.

The World Heritage Convention agreement, written for the protection of the shared inheritance of the world, was adopted by the General Convention of UNESCO in 1972. It specified that certain places of "outstanding universal heritage" on earth required preservation for future generations. Many nations contributed funding for this purpose. The World Heritage Convention celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2012, and currently lists more than 1,000 cultural and natural World Heritage Sites.

—Gloria W. Lannom

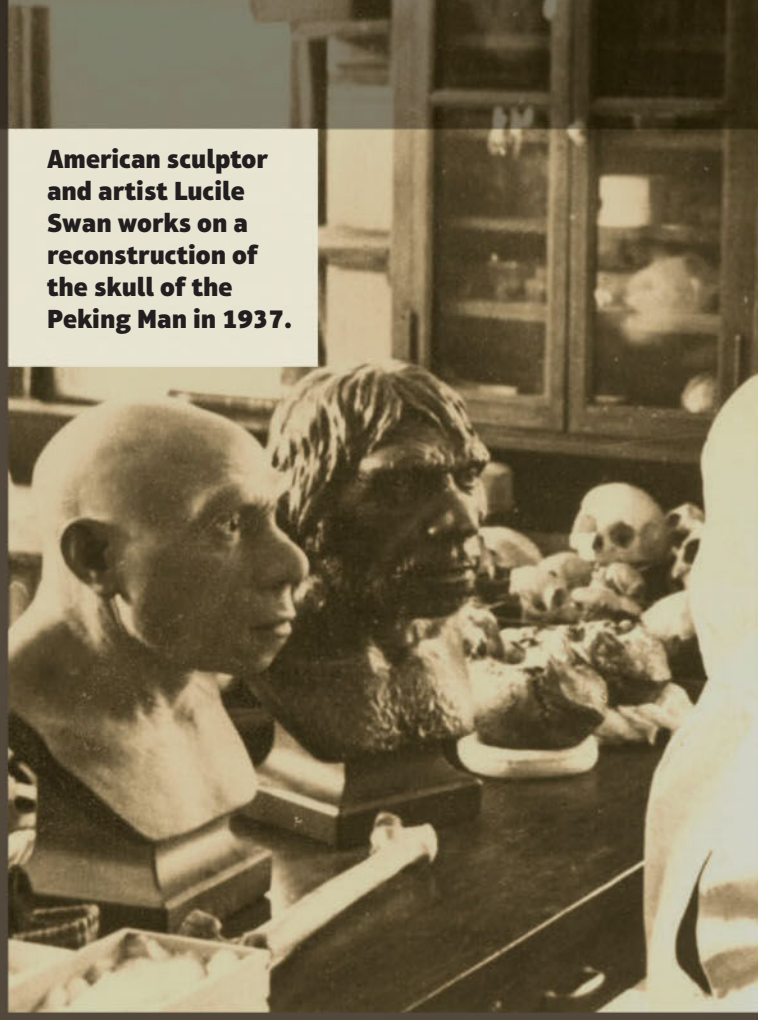
by Margarete Pruech

Peking Man



A skull cast of Peking Man that is housed today in Zhoukoudian, China

Zhoukoudian is a small village situated about 31 miles southwest of Beijing. It is surrounded by a chain of mountains and gently sloping hills. And, it was in these hills that locals, who were quarrying limestone, found fossils. Soon after, people began calling the area Chicken Hill or Dragon Bone Hill. The first person to conduct a survey there was a Swedish geologist and archaeologist named Johann Gunnar Andersson. He also collected fossils. Andersson had come to Beijing in 1918 to serve as an adviser on mineral affairs to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce of the Chinese government.



American sculptor and artist Lucile Swan works on a reconstruction of the skull of the Peking Man in 1937.

A SPECTACULAR FIND

Three years later, in 1921, Andersson and an Austrian paleontologist did a second survey. They found two humanlike teeth. One was a molar. The first of its kind to be uncovered in the Asian world, it caused such a sensation that the Swedish Crown Prince, Gustav Adolf, visited China in 1926.

Scientists from around the world were interested in studying this find, but it was Davidson Black, a Canadian anthropologist, who said that the upper molar found in 1921 belonged to a species of human beings known as *Homo erectus pekinensis*. The American geologist A. William Grabau gave it the name "Peking Man," as it is often called today.

From 1927 onward, more scientists became involved in the project, and a collaborative that included several institutions was established. On December 2, 1929, Pei Wenzhong, a young Chinese geologist who had joined the excavation, made the most important discovery of all. There, in the red clay of a cave that branched off from another cave, Pei found the first, almost complete, **skullcap** of Peking Man. It was this find that finally convinced researchers that Peking Man really had existed.

A TERRIBLE LOSS

Soon after the discovery of the first piece of skullcap, a second skullcap was uncovered in the spring of 1930. From 1935 to 1936, the scale of the excavation was so large that there were more than 100 workers digging within a square kilometer area every day. Excavation stopped after 1940, the time of the Second World War. Twenty years would pass before digging would start again. Unfortunately, in the turmoil of war, the skulls were lost (see sidebar).

In the history of palaeoanthropology, the study of the formation and the development of humans, the discovery of Peking Man was not the first one of its kind. It was, however, the most important up until that time.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- **Peking Man** is a human ancestor who lived between 770,000 and 230,000 years ago.
- **Peking Man's name** describes a species of humankind rather than a single person. Excavations yielded several skullcaps and mandibles (lower jawbones), facial and limb bones, and the teeth of about 40 individuals.
- **Peking Man** was a cave dweller, tool maker, fire user, hunter, and gatherer.
- **Peking Man's clothing** probably consisted of animal hides that had been softened by working them with stone tools.

A CLOSER LOOK

Study of Peking Man's skeleton—minus the skull—shows that it is rather similar to that of modern man. Peking Man's height was about 5.12 feet for males and 4.72 feet for females. The skull differs from that of a modern man in that it is robust, low, and flat. It also has a big brow. The brain capacity is

Skullcap refers to the top part of the skull.

The Lost Fossils

It is 1941, and the Second World War is raging. China is occupied by Japanese troops. The valuable and unique fossils of Peking Man are packed in order to send them for safekeeping to the Museum of Natural History in New York. They were to be transported by train to a United States Marine base and then shipped across the Pacific Ocean. What happened to them is still unknown.

smaller than that of a person today, but the teeth are larger. He could use stone tools and produce other implements, such as flint stones, for his daily life. He could use charcoal and control fire. Within the ash found in firepits, scientists found bones and also hackberry seeds.

The use and control of fire was Peking Man's greatest achievement. It provided a defense against wild beasts, light during the night, warmth in the cave, and a means to cook raw food. Outside the cave were fruits and plants such as hazelnuts, pine, and roses. The fruits and seeds were one part of Peking Man's diet; what he hunted, another.

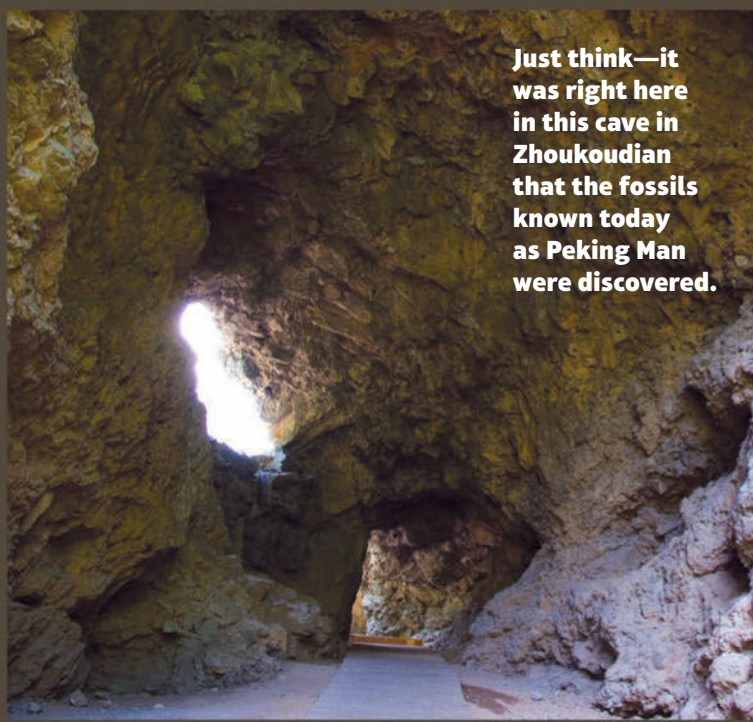
AND TODAY

In 2005, Yan Li from the Peking Man Museum initiated another search for the bones, but with no success. Fortunately, the plaster copies of the finds had survived. In 1987, the Zhoukoudian site was put on the UNESCO World Heritage list (see page 3), and research on Peking Man continues.

Margarete Pruech *served as the consulting editor for this issue.*

Limestone

Limestone is a type of rock formed from shells. Over millions of years, shells collected on the ocean floor. These layers, along with mud, piled up and slowly hardened into limestone, which is quarried today and used in roadbeds, building and landscape construction, and cement manufacturing.



Just think—it was right here in this cave in Zhoukoudian that the fossils known today as Peking Man were discovered.

THE GRAND CANAL

by Patrick Wertmann

What are China's greatest achievements? Surely, one of the first to come to mind is the Great Wall. But did you know that the Chinese also built the longest canal in the world? Its length of 1,104 miles easily compares with a route linking New York and Florida. This canal connects six provinces and five river systems, and its ends are marked by the city of Beijing in the north and the city of Hangzhou in the south. For this reason, the Grand Canal is officially called the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal.

AND SO IT BEGINS

But why would you build such an enormous canal? To find out, we must travel back to the year 486 B.C. It was then that the leader of the State of Wu, which was located near present-day Suzhou, realized he had to find new ways of transporting goods to the northern areas of China. There were roads, but they were often in need of repair. So, he opted for a longer lasting alternative—a canal. It would be a manmade channel, using already existing waterways, to link the Yangzi and Huai rivers. It was this canal that laid the foundation for the future, longer Grand Canal.

More than 1,000 years later, Emperor Yang of the Sui dynasty (A.D. 586–618), had the old canals rebuilt and, in addition, had them connected to one another to form what we know today as the Grand Canal. In the centuries that followed, there were times when the Grand Canal fell into disrepair as a result of wars. There were also times when rulers ordered it refurbished and its course adjusted to allow traffic to flow more effectively. For example, during the 13th century, when the Mongols ruled China, the length of the Grand Canal was shortened by more than 400 miles. The goal was to create a faster route between Hangzhou and Beijing.

A MAJOR CHANGE

Then, in 1403, Yongle, the third emperor of the Ming dynasty, decided to transfer his capital from Nanjing

What a great view of life along the Grand Canal at the time of Emperor Yang (A.D. 560–618)! The painting dates to the 18th century.

This photo of Hangzhou, taken at dusk, dates to July 11, 2014.

in the south to Beijing in the north. This definitely was not a simple move. In order to make Beijing a capital, Yongle had to deploy many troops to secure the area and repopulate it as well. Aware that the lands in northern China are less fertile than those in southern China, Yongle knew he had to devise a plan to feed all those moving north. The only way to do so, he reasoned, was to transport grain from the south to the north, and the most effective way to do this would be along the Grand Canal.

To direct the restoration of the Canal, the emperor appointed Chen Xuan, an expert on hydraulic engineering and a professional soldier. Chen Xuan oversaw the construction of 3,000 flat-bottomed barges for shallow water transport and 47 locks that made it possible for the ships to pass from one level to another as they made their way along the waterway. More than 47,000 men were employed to maintain the Grand Canal, which soon became the economic lifeline of the empire.

HEAVILY TRAVELED TO BE SURE

Grain was not the only trade good transported north on the waterways heading to Beijing. Salt was another, as it had become one of the most reliable sources of income during the Ming dynasty. Among the luxury items commissioned by wealthy people were porcelain, wine, and tea. As for the goods traded from the north, these included cotton, wool, coal, flour, precious stones, and dried meat.

At times, more than 120,000 soldiers and officers were needed to operate the almost 12,000 government barges that annually traveled the Grand Canal. This figure is found in official documents of the imperial court. Many port cities along the Grand Canal—chief among them was Suzhou—became thriving trade centers. Ferryboats, hotels, restaurants, pawnshops, and many other businesses were opened to serve travelers. The Grand Canal proved a powerful tool in promoting political stability within the empire and cultural exchange between the north and the south.

STILL USEFUL

With the coming of trains and the subsequent expansion of the railway system in the mid-1800s, the Grand Canal became less and less important to traders. Today, few goods are transported along its waterways. Still, the current South-North Water Transfer Project proves that the Chinese government still sees the Grand Canal as important to the welfare of China. The aim of this costly project is to divert huge amounts of water every year from the Yangzi River in the south to the more arid regions in the north.

Patrick Wertmann *works at the Beijing Branch Office of the German Archaeological Institute. He studied Chinese studies, Chinese language, and the history of East Asian arts.*

The GREAT Wall

by Monique Nagel-Angermann

In the third century B.C., China was divided into several states, which frequently fought among themselves. Large armies of foot soldiers, reinforced by smaller units of cavalry, crisscrossed the country. These troops, protected by leather armor, attacked the enemy with crossbows and beheaded each other with dagger-axes. Then, in 221 B.C., the king of the western state of Qin, from which the name "China" is derived, defeated all the other kingdoms and became the First Emperor of China. His goal was to unify the lands under his control, and, to help do this, he standardized the Chinese characters, measures, and weights so that all would be the same throughout the country. He also commissioned the building of great roadways and a long, massive wall.

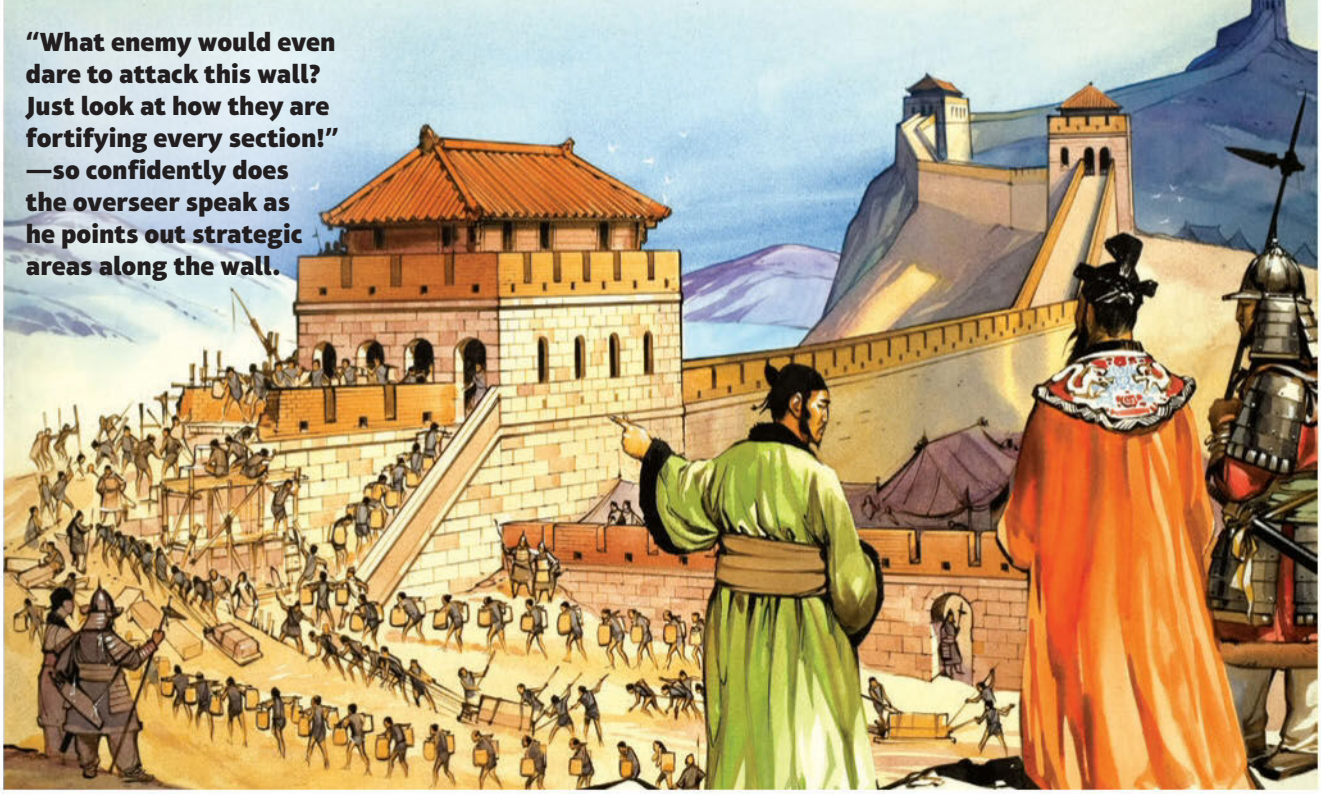
A section of the Great Wall today near Beijing

Let's Salute the Workers

This was not the first wall to be built in China. Even before the Warring States period, some rulers had tried to protect their territories by constructing walls made of rammed earth mixed with straw and brushwood. After the unification of China, the First Emperor sent soldiers, convicts, and other men who had to fulfill their **corvee labor** obligation north to build his *changcheng* ("Long Wall").

Many died as a result of the difficult conditions. In some areas, they had to carry huge slabs of stone to the construction site and then pile them one on top of the other. In winter, it was

Corvee labor refers to work exacted in place of taxes by public authorities, especially for highway construction or repair.



"What enemy would even dare to attack this wall? Just look at how they are fortifying every section!" —so confidently does the overseer speak as he points out strategic areas along the wall.

extremely cold; in summer, very hot. Surviving letters and other records give witness to the suffering and sorrow of the ill-fated workers.

Stay Out!

But why did the emperor of the unified China need such a wall if he had conquered all the warring factions within? The answer is simple—to protect him from a new enemy, one who lived even farther north. This new foe was the Xiongnu. These nomads had allied themselves into a powerful confederacy and were raiding the farms of Chinese settlers living along China's northern border.

The Tale of Lady Meng Jiang

According to legend, during the Qin dynasty, the husband of a woman known as Lady Meng Jiang was sent as a corvee laborer to the Great Wall. When she did not receive any letters from him, she set off to bring him warm clothes for the winter. When she finally arrived at the place he had been sent, he was already dead. She wept so bitterly that the part of the wall where his body had been buried collapsed, releasing his bones.

When the Qin dynasty was replaced by the Han, the Great Wall retained its importance. But, it was not insurmountable. Watchtowers were built at regular intervals so that, in case of an attack, guards could use beacon fires to call other troops to their aid. In peacetime, markets were set up nearby. When merchant caravans passed through the Jade Gate Tower in present-day Gansu province, they left the civilized world of China and headed west along the routes of the far-reaching Silk Road.

Bigger and Better

Not every dynasty, however, needed to defend itself against invading nomads from the north. As a result, many sections of the old Great Wall fell into disrepair. Then, during the 15th century, when the Ming ruled China, a great effort was made to fortify the Wall. The Ming had succeeded in chasing the Mongols out of China, but these horsemen from the north were still a threat to the country's security. This was especially true after the Ming moved their capital from the south to the north, to Beijing. Still, it was only after 1449, when a group of Mongols captured the Ming emperor and

defeated a huge Chinese army, that the Ming decided to build a new Great Wall.

More than 40,000 men were enlisted for the first phase of its construction. Regional military commanders were assigned to supervise the construction of individual sections. A close look at the bricks used to build the wall offers much information. The inscriptions on many of them tell not only the date they were made but also where they were made.

This new wall also clearly acknowledged Mongol control over the area north of the Ordos Desert. It did so by following the southern border of the Ordos and then bordering the bend of the Yellow River that lay north of the Ordos as the first Great Wall had done.

Gigantic!

In recent years, many sections of the Wall have undergone repair. Still, our image of the Great Wall is shaped by the structures built during the Ming dynasty. To be sure, it was, and still is, an impressive structure. More than 4,970 miles long, it starts at Jiayuguan, the westernmost fortress by the Gobi Desert. It then follows the ridges of the mountains in the north as it stretches east and ends at Shanhaiguan, the easternmost fortress by the Yellow Sea.

The Great Wall is not just one wall. In some places, there are several lines of walls. It is also not just one height or one width throughout. On average, it is about 23 feet wide and more than 32 feet high. Even more impressive were the many beacon-fire towers and fortresses.

Treachery!

In the end, the Great Wall did not help the Ming. In 1644, a general named Wu Sangui opened the gates at Shanhaiguan and let in the Manchu, yet another tribe of hunters and fishers from the northeast. Wu Sangui's act led to the downfall of the Ming. The Manchu established the Qing dynasty, the last in China's history.

Today, the Great Wall remains an important symbol of China's might. It is also a World Heritage Site (see page 4) and a top attraction for tourists from around the world.

Monique Nagel-Angermann *studied Chinese and Near Eastern archaeology and philology. She teaches Chinese history at the Westfaelische-Wilhelms University in Muenster, Germany.*

The Tale of Xifeng kou

The pass along the Great Wall that is known as Xifeng kou was a key gateway in centuries past. The military knew well that its location was both easy to defend and difficult to attack. Today, Xifeng kou is still well preserved, even though its main section is under water because of the rising waters in the nearby Panjiakou Reservoir. *Xifeng* is Chinese for "happy summit," and *kou* translates as "pass." Tradition says that a father went in search of his son who had been sent to build the wall at Xifeng. Finding him alive, the father was so happy that he and his son soon began laughing and laughed themselves to death.

The Tale of Huang Hua Cheng

Huang Hua Cheng refers to the beautiful, summer scenery around a section of the wall that is close to the village of Jintang. *Jin* is Chinese for "metal," and *tang* translates as "hot water or soup." When put together, these characters mean "impregnable." If you visit the area today, you will see the two characters inscribed on the face of a huge rock below a section of the wall. They honor a general named Cai Kai who oversaw the construction of this section of the Great Wall. Unfortunately, slanderous statements made about Cai Kai led the reigning Ming emperor to order his execution. The emperor realized his fatal mistake only after a survey report noted the high quality of this section of the Great Wall. As the emperor could not reverse his order, he issued another—build a tomb and erect a memorial stone that would forever honor Cai Kai.

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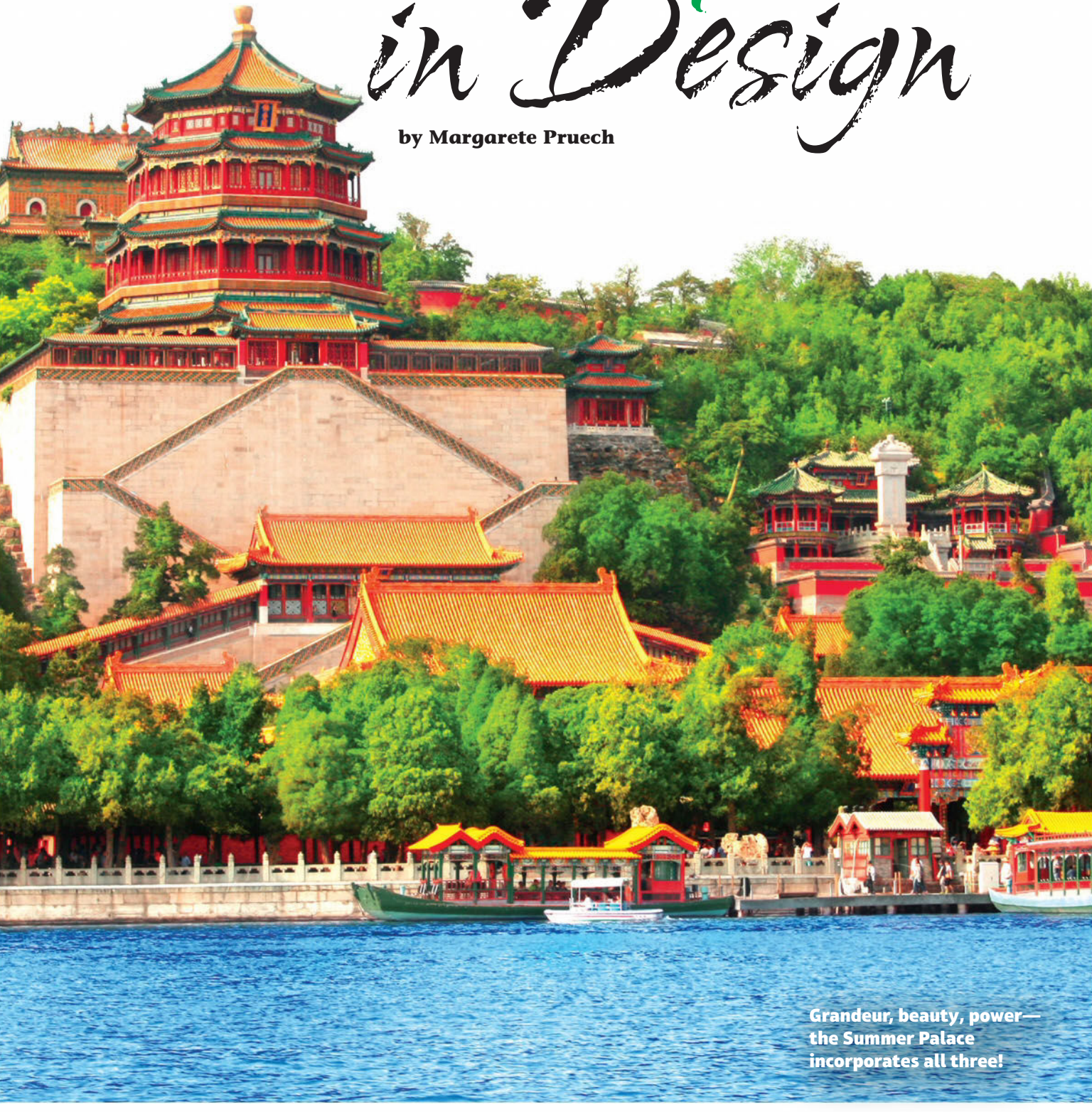
A Masterpiece in Design

by Margarete Pruech



Grandeur, beauty, power—the Summer Palace incorporates all three!

Every year, more than two million people visit Beijing's grand Summer Palace. In centuries past, Chinese emperors favored it above all other royal residences. They especially liked to be there in summertime, when they could enjoy a cool breeze in a wonderful park area, strolling around at leisure and watching the sunset while savoring a glass of wine.

A Walk Through History

The site spreads across 1.1 square miles in the northwest suburbs of Beijing, and three quarters of the space is covered with water. Today, the two principal landmarks are Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake, but this was not always the case.

The palace's history dates back almost 800 years. It was then that the first emperor of the Jin Dynasty (A.D. 265–420) moved his capital close to what is present-day Beijing and built the Gold Mountain Palace. His successors made many changes and even had engineers design channels that would bring water from nearby rivers to the palace area. They used this water to make artificial lakes that served as reservoirs. In time, much of this area became a park. Then, in 1763, Qing emperor Qianlong commissioned the building of the Temple of Gratitude and Longevity Hill to honor the 60th birthday of his mother in 1763. He named it *Qinyiyuan* ("Park of the Pure Ripples") and even ordered that the roadways leading from Beijing to the Summer Palace be decorated.

Not every century, however, has treated the Summer Palace well. In fact, it has been destroyed twice. The first time was in 1860, when Anglo-French troops invaded Beijing and burned the palace and the Park of the Pure Ripples. In 1888, Empress Dowager Cixi had all rebuilt and named the area *Yiheyuan* ("Garden of Good Health and Harmony"). The design was modeled after the famed gardens in the southern cities of Hangzhou and Suzhou. Work on the project continued for 10 years. It soon came to be known as the Summer Palace and included another palatial structure known as the Marble Boat (see page 16). To fund this construction, Empress Cixi used 30 million **taels** of silver that had been designated for the Chinese navy.

Meet the powerful Empress dowager Cixi.

Tragedy struck a second time in 1900 when fire swept through the site. Demolition of the ruins followed, and so, too, did the looting of the valuable objects by invading troops. Once again, Empress Cixi commissioned a costly restoration.

In 1914, Puyi, the last Chinese emperor, opened the Summer Palace to the public. Few people came, however, because the entrance fees were so high. Slowly, the park reverted to wilderness. Reconstruction began again after Mao Zedong founded the People's Republic of China in 1949—and it continues to this day.

Taels refers to a unit of Chinese currency at the time.

The Long Corridor

Jade Belt Bridge, a pedestrian bridge on the western shore of Kunming Lake

The Marble Boat

The Layout

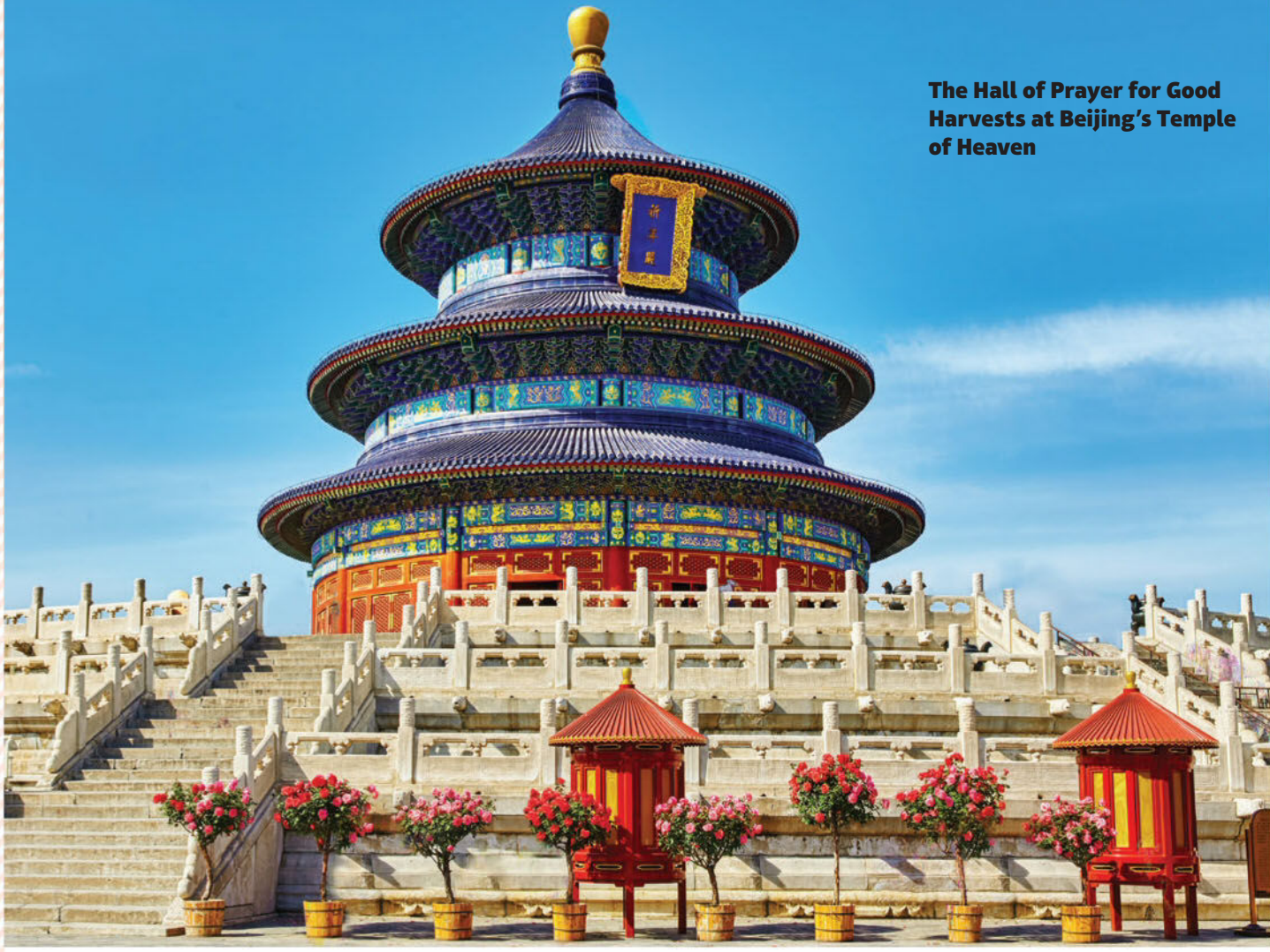
Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake are considered the most impressive areas in the park, but there is much more to see! The scenic spots number more than 100, and there are more than 20 courtyards and 3,000 ancient structures, including bridges and halls. Sixteen hundred trees, each more than 100 years old, form what is known as the "green lung" of the park.

According to Empress Cixi's plans, the grounds were divided into three sections. The first was the administration area. Here was *Renshoudian* ("Palace of Benevolent Longevity"), where Cixi met with high-ranking officials and handled the daily affairs of government. The second area was residential and lay between the Hall of Jade Billows and the Hall of Joy. This is where the Empress lived with members of the royal household. The third was the garden area, open only to the imperial family. It lies mainly between the Hall of Longevity and Kunming Lake.

Ready for a Tour?

When you enter through the East Gate, in front of you is *Leshoutang* ("Hall of Happiness and Longevity"). This was home to Empress Cixi from May to November. Beyond is Long Corridor (see top left), which measures half a mile in length. As you walk along this passageway, enjoy the more than 8,000 paintings that decorate the beams and ceiling and depict flowers and illustrate historical tales. The Long Corridor ends at a lake whose main feature is the amazing "Marble Boat," a solid two-story palace that was built in the shape of a paddle steamer, ready to set sail. Its base is stone, and its upper structure is wood painted to imitate marble. The boat is 118 feet long and 26 feet high. Huge mirrors were fixed on each deck so that Cixi could enjoy the exquisite scenery while having tea. Today, visitors can take a ride on the lake in a "dragon boat" to what is known as Rainbow Bridge. Once there, you are invited to climb to Longevity Hill where you have a magnificent view of the park and the city of Beijing. As you walk down the hill, enjoy the pine grove.

How long does it take to see all the park's features? It is said that you could spend more than three days there and still not see every corner.



The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests at Beijing's Temple of Heaven

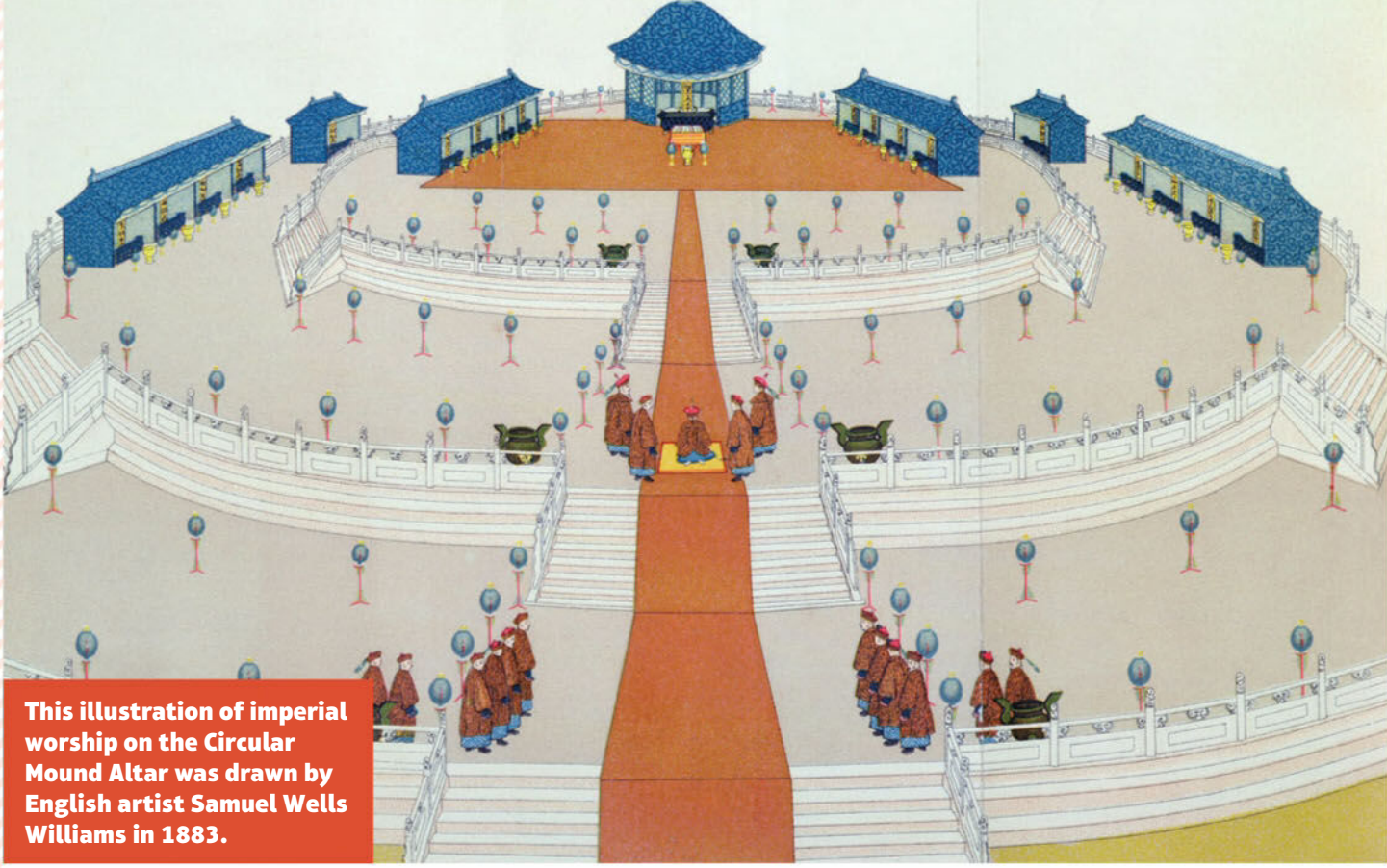
Worshiping Heaven

by Christine Liu-Perkins

For almost 500 years, emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties offered sacrifices and prayers at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. In performing these ceremonies, the emperors showed their reverence for the deity whose aid and approval they needed to rule. It was here that the relationship between humans and Heaven was clearly on display, with the emperor exercising his special role as mediator between them.

A Gigantic Space

The Temple of Heaven spreads out across 675 acres, an area much larger than the 178 acres covered by the Forbidden City, the site of the imperial palace complex (see pages 20–22). At the two most important structures located within the site, China's emperors led key ceremonies related to the welfare of the country. The first was the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests (*Qiniandian*), which sits at the north end. This magnificent



This illustration of imperial worship on the Circular Mound Altar was drawn by English artist Samuel Wells Williams in 1883.

round building is positioned on a platform of three marble terraces. Three roofs, fashioned of blue tiles, stretch up to a golden knob at the top. At the south end stands the Circular Mound Altar (*Yuanqiutan*). Open to the sky, it has three round tiers of marble, each rimmed by balustrades of white marble (see illustration above).

A closer look at the temple's design helps us understand what the various parts symbolize. For example, the round shape of the Circular Mound Altar represents Heaven, while the square courtyard represents Earth. Since the Chinese also associated Heaven with odd numbers, the layout of the Altar is based on odd numbers, especially the number nine, which the Chinese also associated with their emperors. Nine steps lead up to each tier. The top has a raised, round stone in the center encircled by nine rings of marble slabs. The first ring has nine slabs, the second has eighteen (2 x 9), and so on out to the ninth ring with eighty-one (9 x 9).

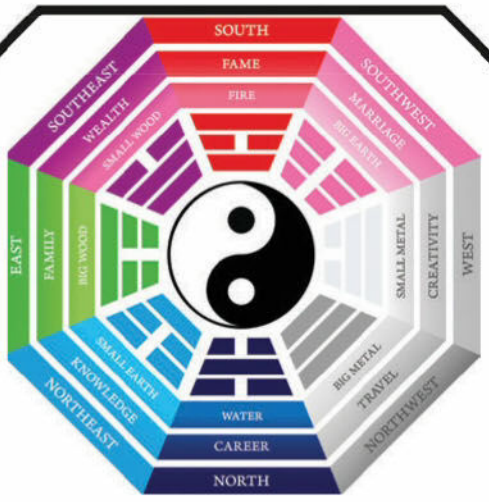
Ever Grander

The Temple of Heaven underwent three major periods of construction. When the Ming emperor Yongle set up his capital in Beijing, he had a hall built for worshiping both Heaven and Earth. The 15-year project was completed in 1420.

The Ming emperor Jiajing restored the tradition of separate altars for worshiping Heaven and Earth. He built the Circular Mound Altar, which was finished in 1530. He also had an altar to Earth constructed in northern Beijing. The rectangular hall that had been commissioned by Yongle was

A Mysterious Sound Effect

The famous "Echo Wall" surrounds the Imperial Vault of Heaven, the round building just north of the Circular Mound Altar. When two people stand near the wall at different spots, one can whisper toward the wall and the other will hear what is said. This occurs because the sound waves cling to and travel along the circular wall, a phenomenon known as "whispering-gallery waves."



What Is *Feng Shui*?

Feng shui ("wind" and "water") refers to a Chinese method of using sites in harmony with nature that will ensure good fortune. It is used for selecting the location and orientation of buildings, houses, and graves. Its principles have influenced the layout of capital cities, including Beijing.

Feng shui experts study the topography of a site, including wind flow, water routes, hills, soil condition, and nearby buildings. They often use a special magnetic compass, called a *luopan,* that provides information on various Chinese concepts of the cosmos.

replaced by a circular structure topped by a cone-shaped roof with three tiers of colored tile—one blue, one yellow, and one green.

The Qing emperor Qianlong renovated the structures, starting in 1749. He renamed the circular hall the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests (or Good Year). Its roof tiles were all changed to blue, symbolizing Heaven. The Circular Mound Altar was enlarged to provide more space for ceremonial tents and vessels. Marble slabs replaced the brick paving, and white marble balustrades replaced the green tile around each tier.

By Invitation Only

The emperor led three ceremonies every year at the Temple of Heaven. He offered sacrifices on the Circular Mound Altar at the **winter solstice** to welcome the beginning of longer days. He prayed for plentiful grain at the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests in early spring. On the Circular Mound Altar, he prayed for rain needed by crops in early summer.

These ceremonies were the most important of all the official rituals. The emperor and his court prepared themselves mentally and physically to approach the heavenly spirit with proper sincerity and reverence. For three days before each ceremony, they abstained from meat, wine, music, mourning, and non-urgent official duties.

When the emperor traveled the four miles from the palace to the temple for the ceremony, as many as 3,700 people accompanied him in a grand procession. Officials and guards paraded with musicians, bearers of banners, attendants carrying equipment for the ceremony, and even elephants and horses. Commoners were not allowed to observe the procession.

All Honor to *Shangdi*

Before sunrise, the emperor performed a majestic nine-part ceremony. He welcomed *Shangdi* (the "Emperor Above"), along with past emperors. He made offerings of incense, jade, silk, wine, and multiple dishes of food. He repeatedly knelt and touched his forehead to the ground to show submission to *Shangdi*. Lastly, the emperor watched as the offerings were burned and the smoke carried them to the spirits of Heaven's supreme deity and the imperial ancestors. The emperor hoped the prayers and offerings would please *Shangdi*. Most of all, he hoped that Heaven would respond by providing prosperity and protection for his people during the coming year.

Christine Liu-Perkins *is the author of* At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasures of Mawangdui *(Charlesbridge, 2014).*

Winter solstice refers to the time period, on or about December 21, that marks the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

by Annette Kieser

The Forbidden City

In centuries past, what is known as the Forbidden City was home to China's emperor and viewed as the very heart of the empire. Members of the government were allowed to enter the compound, but only a few had access to its center. Today, the opposite is true, with more than 14 million visitors annually. But, for now, let's journey back in time to the beginning of the Ming dynasty.

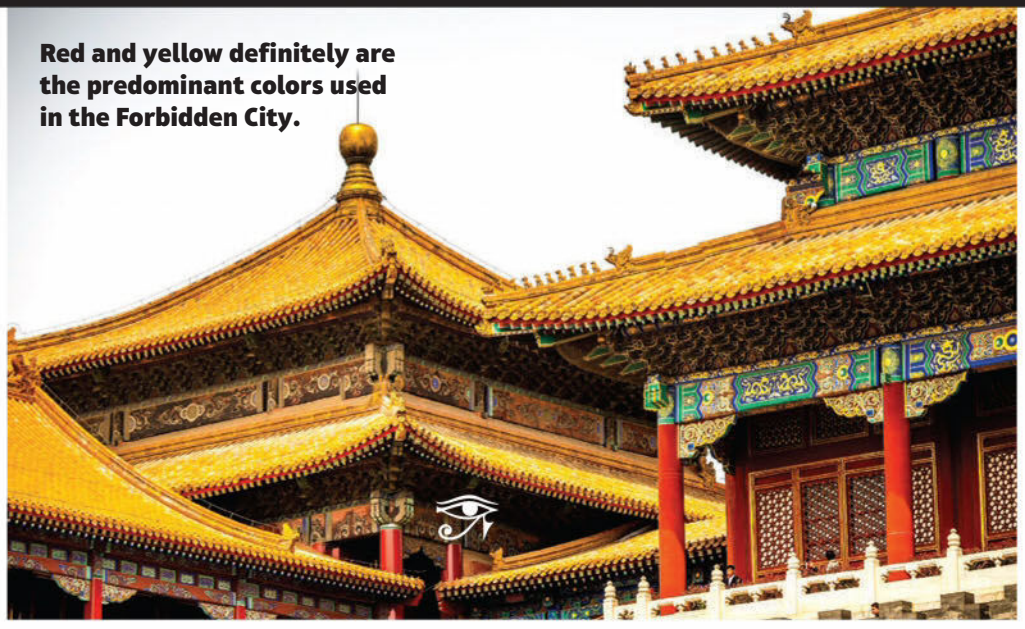
Big Changes

The year is 1368, and a peasant named Zhu Yuanzhang, with strong support from rebel groups, has finally managed to defeat the Mongol-led Yuan dynasty that had ruled China for almost 100 years. With this goal achieved, he then declares himself emperor of a new dynasty—the Ming—and names Nanjing as his capital. But Zhu, who is known as the Hongzu emperor, has not abandoned Beijing. A rebuilding period followed during his reign and those of his successors. In 1421, the city once again is made the country's capital, and the reigning Ming emperor moves into the palace.

But time was not always kind to the palace complex. Still, even after fire broke out on several occasions, reconstruction and renovation work followed. So, what you see today are buildings

den

Here's a photo that truly captures past and present: the Forbidden City (foreground) framed by Beijing's present skyline.



Red and yellow definitely are the predominant colors used in the Forbidden City.

The Throne Room in the "heart" of the Palace

that date mostly to the Qing dynasty, the dynasty that followed the Ming. Since Qing emperors told their engineers to follow the original building plans, there is still the feeling, when you enter the complex, of a Ming dynasty palace.

Let's Take a Look

Once inside, visitors, particularly those from the West, quickly realize that this structure is unlike any Western palace or castle. There are no towers or multi-story buildings, only courtyards and connecting gates, halls and pavilions. The most important of these were built on top of a high terrace, which was made of white marble to create a majestic feeling. The structures are made mostly of wood that was then painted. Red and yellow are the predominant colors, with the massive wooden pillars painted red and the roof tiles covered with a glaze of bright yellow, a color only the imperial family was allowed to use (see photo at top above). Tradition says that there are 9,999 and a half rooms, since only heaven was allowed to have 10,000 rooms!

A high wall and moats filled with water surround the complex, which measures 3,150 feet from north to south and 2,493 feet from east to west. Yet, the buildings occupy less than a third of this area. The main characteristic of the

By definition, symmetry refers to the beauty of form arising from balanced proportions.

The entrance stairway to the Palace Museum within the Forbidden City

compound is its **symmetry**. In the very middle of the Palace is its "heart"—the "Three Great Halls." These served not only as the throne room (see page 21), but also as the space for official audiences and banquets. The halls, courtyards, and connecting gates are arranged on a north-south axis, while less important buildings are arranged in a similar manner, but on an east-west axis.

And Within...

The Inner Quarters of the Palace were built to the north of the main halls. These were the private rooms for the emperor, the empress, the **concubines**, the royal children, and high-ranking attendants. Contributing to the secluded atmosphere are the gardens you find here. The official part of the palace, the so-called Outer Quarters, lies to the south of the halls. Here were government offices and workshops. The function of these minor buildings did, however, change through the centuries.

Surrounding the Forbidden City was the Imperial City, with administrative offices, a large lake, and a park. Surrounding the Imperial City was the huge Inner City, roughly the size of the former Yuan capital. To the south lay the Outer City. The rulers of the Qing dynasty issued a decree forbidding ethnic Chinese people from living there. They declared it an area reserved for their ethnic group—the Manchu population.

An End, and a Beginning

In 1912, the Forbidden City ceased to be China's political center. Puyi, the country's last emperor, was forced to **abdicate**, but he was allowed to remain in the Inner Quarters of the palace until 1924. The following year, the complex that had been home to the emperors for nearly 500 years became the Palace Museum (see photo above) and opened its doors to the public.

Tiananmen Square

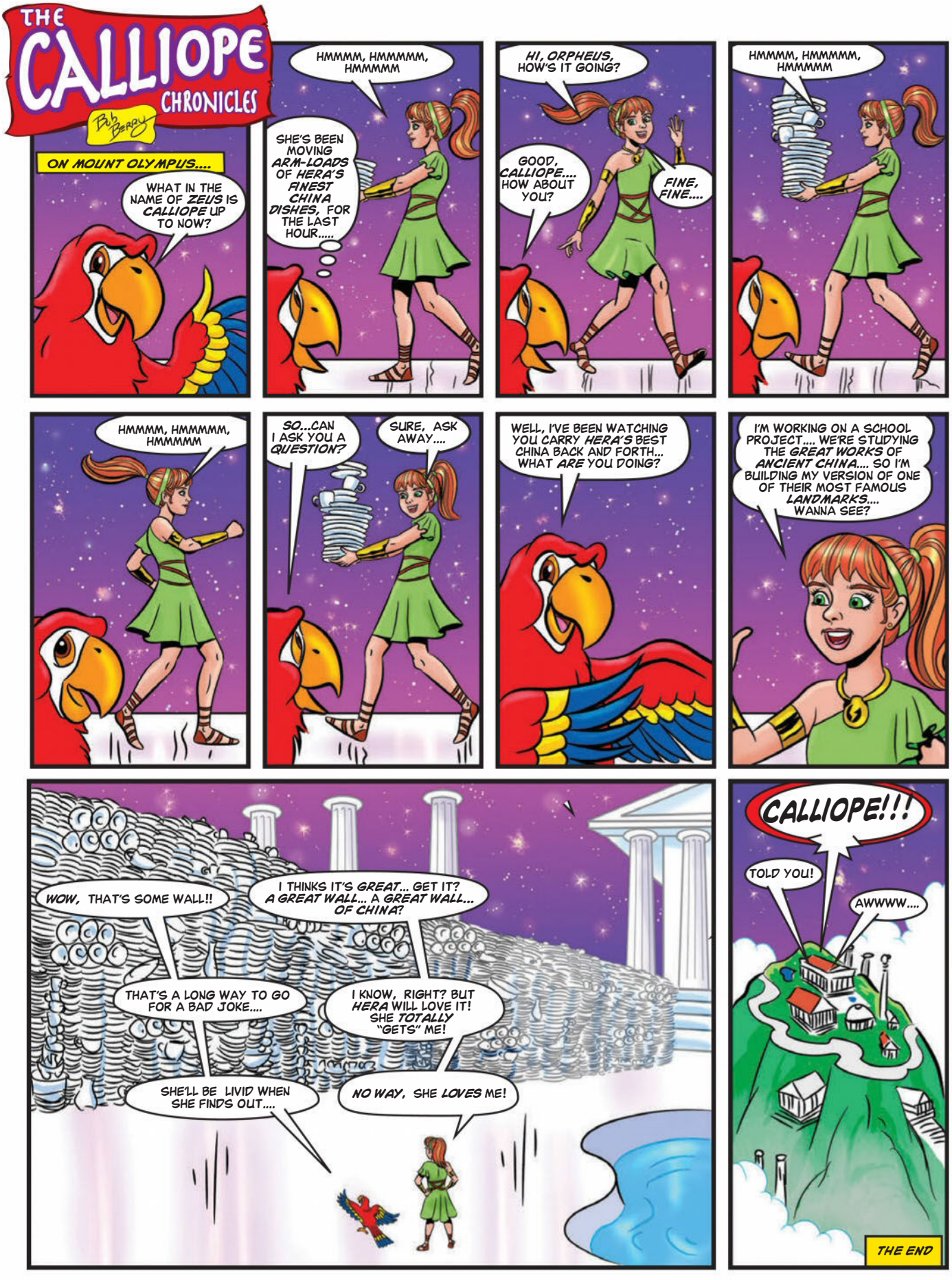
If you entered Beijing from the South Gate in centuries past, you would have stepped onto a 2.8-mile approach that led north to the Imperial City. In 1949, the city planners of the newly founded People's Republic of China sought to change this area, as they considered it a symbol of the past, a time when China was ruled by emperors. While the palace itself was spared destruction, the long approach leading to it was not. The government offices and the gates to the south of the monument known as *Tiananmen* ("The Gate of Heavenly Peace") were torn down, and a new complex was built. Known today as Tiananmen Square, it spreads across 109 acres. In its center is the Monument of the People's Heroes. To its right is the National Museum; to its left, the Great Hall of the People. After the death of Mao Zedong, the founder of the Republic, in 1976, a mausoleum was built at the southern end of the square to house his body in a crystal coffin. Thus did the site become the center of the new state and a symbol of the power that the ruling Communist party wielded.

—Annette Kieser

Annette Kieser *teaches Chinese art and archaeology at the University of Muenster in Germany.*

Concubines, in Imperial China, were secondary wives, who had few legal rights and low social status.

Abdicate means to renounce or give up one's position forever.


THE CALLIOPE CHRONICLES
Bob Berry
ON MOUNT OLYMPUS....
WHAT IN THE NAME OF ZEUS IS CALLIOPE UP TO NOW?
HMMMM, HMMMMM, HMMMMM
SHE'S BEEN MOVING ARM-LOADS OF HERA'S FINEST CHINA DISHES, FOR THE LAST HOUR.....
HI, ORPHEUS, HOW'S IT GOING?
GOOD, CALLIOPE.... HOW ABOUT YOU?
FINE, FINE....
HMMMM, HMMMMM, HMMMMM
HMMMM, HMMMMM, HMMMMM
SO...CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
SURE, ASK AWAY....
WELL, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU CARRY HERA'S BEST CHINA BACK AND FORTH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M WORKING ON A SCHOOL PROJECT.... WE'RE STUDYING THE GREAT WORKS OF ANCIENT CHINA.... SO I'M BUILDING MY VERSION OF ONE OF THEIR MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS.... WANNA SEE?
WOW, THAT'S SOME WALL!!
I THINKS IT'S GREAT... GET IT? A GREAT WALL... A GREAT WALL... OF CHINA?
THAT'S A LONG WAY TO GO FOR A BAD JOKE....
I KNOW, RIGHT? BUT HERA WILL LOVE IT! SHE TOTALLY "GETS" ME!
SHE'LL BE LIVID WHEN SHE FINDS OUT....
NO WAY, SHE LOVES ME!
CALLIOPE!!!
TOLD YOU!
AWWWW....
THE END

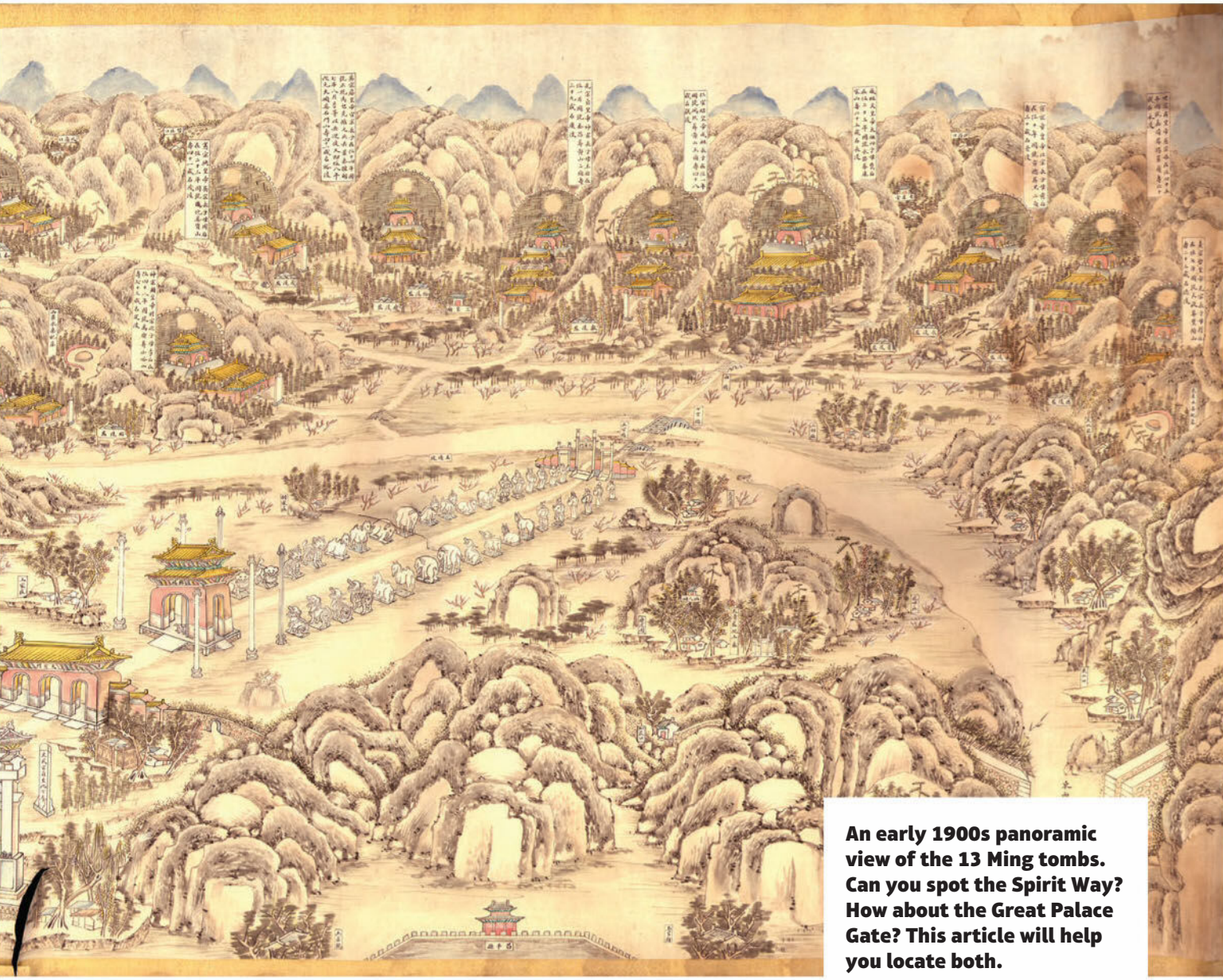
The 13 Tombs of the Ming Dynasty

by Patrick Wertmann

A 30-mile journey north of Beijing will lead you to one of China's most impressive sites. Once there, you will see, carefully placed in front of Mount Tianshou, a cluster of 13 tombs. These were built to house the remains of emperors who ruled one of China's most powerful dynasties, the Ming (A.D. 1368–1644). Some of you may wonder why there are 13 tombs and not 16, since 16 is the actual number of Ming dynasty emperors. Well, here's the story…

CHOOSING THE SITE

As with so many sites in Beijing, the tale begins with Yongle, the third emperor of the Ming dynasty. In 1402, four years after he ascended the throne, he moved the capital from Nanjing in the south to Beijing in the north. This was a gigantic project, one that affected the lives of many people throughout the empire. When Empress Xu, Yongle's wife, died the following summer, a decision had to be made about her burial place. Yongle had already been spending most of his time in the north, so it seemed only natural that he would bury her somewhere close to the new capital.



An early 1900s panoramic view of the 13 Ming tombs. Can you spot the Spirit Way? How about the Great Palace Gate? This article will help you locate both.

Doing so would also help establish Beijing as the new Ming capital. A person well versed in the art of **feng shui** was instructed to find the right place for the imperial tomb. (See also page 19.)

Work on the tomb began in 1409. The site was a secluded valley north of the capital, and the structure was to be one that would hold the remains of both Empress Xu and Yongle. The tomb was still not complete in 1424, when Yongle died suddenly while on a military campaign. It took another three years to finish the mausoleum and place the remains of the imperial couple within. Known as Chang Ling, it is the largest of the 13 tombs. The last emperor to be buried in this valley was Chongzhen, who hanged himself in 1644 in Jingshan Park immediately to the north of the Forbidden City.

THE MISSING THREE

Who are the Ming emperors not buried in this valley? There is no mystery here. The first is Hongwu, whose mausoleum was built close to Nanjing, where he had founded the Ming dynasty. The second is Jianwen, who succeeded Hongwu and was later overthrown by Yongle. His tomb has never been found. The third is the

Feng shui ("wind" and "water") is a Chinese system used to choose sites in harmony with nature that will ensure good fortune.

Interior view of the Ding Ling tomb

The Ding Ling Tomb

Ding Ling is the only Ming tomb to have been excavated so far. Archaeologists have been working at the site since its opening in 1956. In addition to the remains of Emperor Wanli and his wife, thousands of priceless artifacts—especially those fashioned of silk and porcelain—have been found. One that did survive is a small crown that belonged to the empress (below). Tragically, the artifacts were ruined because of inadequate restoration skills at that time and the policies of the Cultural Revolution. In 1966, Chairman Mao Zedong pushed forward his agenda to eliminate all traditional elements from Chinese society. His reasoning was simple: He feared such reminders of the past posed a threat to his Communist ideology. As a result, the Ding Ling was looted by the **Red Guards**. Even worse, the Guards dragged the remains of the emperor and his wife from the tomb and burned them publicly as an act of **posthumous** condemnation. Luckily, the lessons learned from this savage act led to a new law enacted years after Mao Zedong fell from power. It remains in effect today and prohibits the opening of any imperial tomb in China.

Red Guards refer to members of a Chinese Communist youth movement in the late 1960s, committed to the militant support of Mao Zedong.

Posthumous means following or occurring after death.

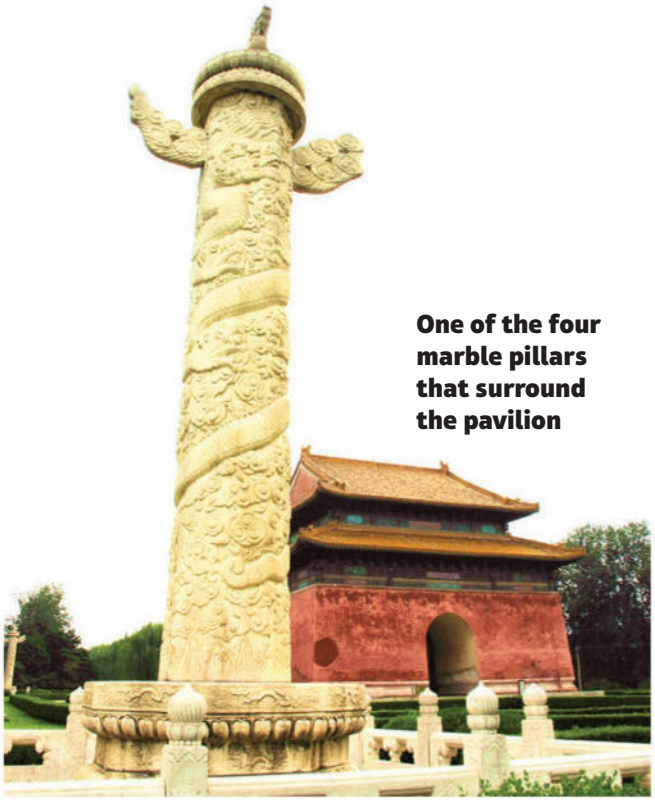
The Great Palace Gate that leads to the Spirit Way

seventh emperor, Jingtai. Considered a dishonourable ruler, he was refused the type of burial given an emperor. Instead, his body was placed in a simple tomb west of Beijing.

AND, THE LAYOUT

The 13 Ming tombs are similar in design and layout. A four-mile-long path, named Spirit Way (above), crosses the site. It begins south of the tombs with a triumphal archway, known as the Great Palace Gate, and continues through a pavilion with a sculpted, giant, tortoise-like dragon, a mythical creature known as a *bixi* (see below). On its back rests the largest inscribed memorial stone tablet in China. The tablet is not original to the design. Rather, it was added later during the Qing dynasty. Around the pavilion are four marble pillars (one opposite), each topped by a mythical beast. There are also two additional

Here's a *bixi*'s head close-up



One of the four marble pillars that surround the pavilion

pillars, each carved with a design that resembles clouds. These two pillars were meant to guide the soul of the deceased in the afterlife—that is, they point the way to a road lined with 12 sets of massive stone statues (see one below and three at right). These represent officials, animals, exotic creatures, foreign dignitaries, and imperial warriors. Their purpose was to guard each tomb and to represent an eternal funeral procession. The end of the Spirit Way is marked by the three-arched Dragon and Phoenix Gate.

A tomb guardian carved from stone to resemble a camel

A tomb guardian carved from stone to resemble a warrior

A tomb guardian carved from stone to resemble an elephant

A tomb guardian carved from stone to resemble a lion

Today, three of these tombs are open to visitors. One is the Chang Ling, with the remains of the imperial couple and Yongle's 16 concubines. A fortified wall encloses Yongle's burial mound, which can be approached after having passed through the Dragon and Phoenix Gate. The second is the Ding Ling, the tomb of the 13th Ming emperor Wanli and his wives. This complex consists of a large forecourt and five underground burial chambers. It appears less impressive than the Chang Ling, but it is the only one that you can enter from the rear side of the mound. The third and smallest among the tombs is the Zhao Ling, the resting place of Longqing, the 12th Ming emperor.

Artist Tom Lopes has incorporated several of the words/expressions highlighted here into his illustration. We have labeled one. Can you find others? See page 41 for the answers.

WORD STORIES

Shanghai If you shanghai someone, you kidnap that person. To find the origin of this term took a bit of digging. The verb is used infrequently today, but in the 1800s and early 1900s, it was often used to refer to the practice of kidnapping people to serve as crew on long voyages. Why the word "shanghai" was used is unknown, but the theory is that many of the vessels to which these kidnapped sailors were taken sailed for distant lands, the Chinese city of Shanghai being a common destination at the time.

Typhoon There does not seem to be consensus about the root of this word that describes a tropical storm in the Indian or western Pacific oceans. The first mention in English of such a storm dates to 1588 and a description of the terrible storm a merchant from Venice, Italy, named Caesar Fredericke experienced when he traveled to Southeast Asia. It is possible that "typhoon" may be related to a Chinese phrase often used in Southeast Asia: *tai fung* ("a great wind").

EXPRESSIONS

Long time no see Here's a phrase that is commonly used throughout the United States. Who coined it is impossible to figure out, but many people point to one plausible explanation: In the early 1900s, sailors returning home from a tour in Southeast Asian waters brought the phrase with them. It was actually a made-up greeting used by the Chinese to greet English-speaking

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visitors. The phrase was *haojiu bujian,* and it meant "very long no see."

Lose face By definition, this expression refers to someone who, for some reason, has lost the respect of others and has been embarrassed or humiliated, often publicly. The concept traces its roots to Asia, and the phrase is actually an exact translation of the phrase the Chinese used to express this concept: *diu lian.*

WORD ORIGINS

Rickshaw This term, which is also spelled ricksha, refers to a small, light, two-wheeled vehicle pulled by one person on foot or on a bicycle. In decades past, it was widely used in Japan and China. While the origin of this term is believed to be Chinese, it is actually an abbreviation of the Japanese term *jinrikisha.* The latter is a combination of three Japanese words: *jin* ("man"), *riki* ("power"), and *sha* ("carriage").

Tycoon We have all used or heard this word at some point in reference to a person who wields great power, wealth, or influence. A look at its history shows that it derives from the Japanese word for a "great lord or prince"—*taikun.* Digging deeper, we find that *taikun* traces its roots to two Chinese words: *tai* ("great") and *kiun* ("lord"). The exact date when it entered the English language is unknown, but the United States Secretary of State John Hay used it in 1861 when he referred to President Abraham Lincoln.

WHAT'S WHERE IN CHINA?

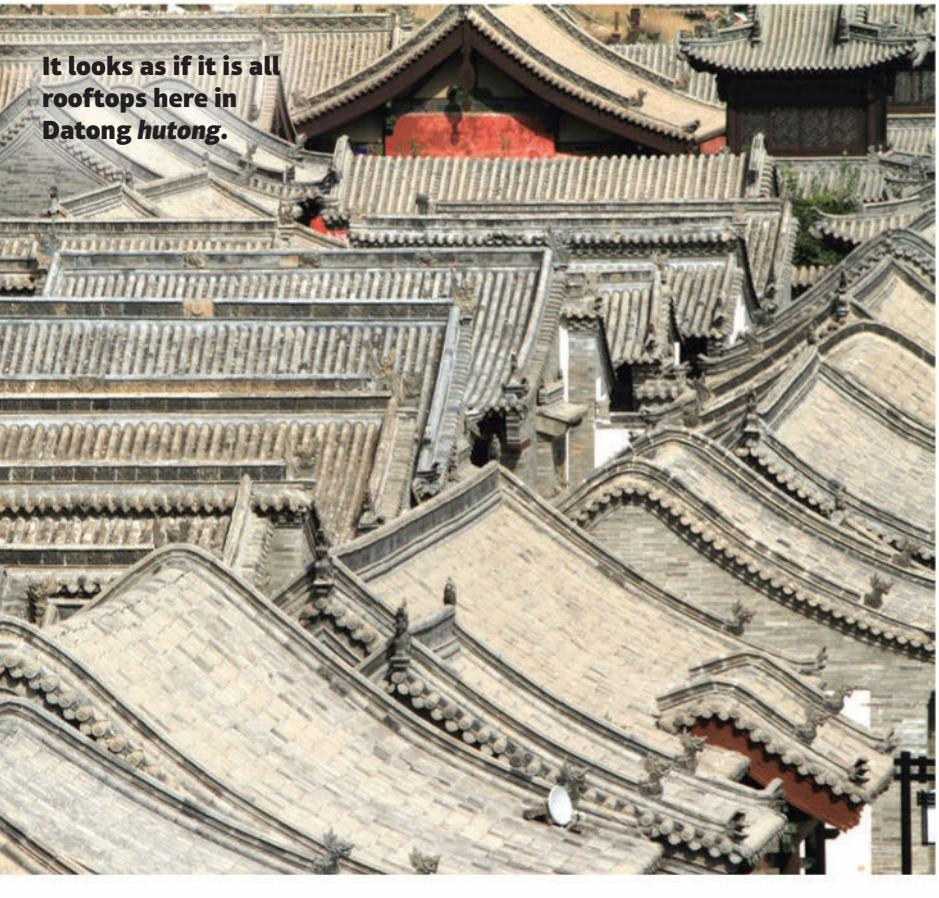
Do a bit of research on the names of cities, towns, states, rivers, and the like in the United States, and you will find many of them have a "secret" meaning. For example, Yellowstone National Park was named for the river that flows by it. The name of that river traces its roots to the Native Americans' name for it: *Mi tse a-da-zi,* meaning "Yellow Rock River." So it is with many place names in China. Listed below are a few of China's provinces, followed by the English translation of the Chinese name:

Chinese	English Translation
Fujian	Happy Establishment
Gansu	Pleasant Respectful
Guangxi	Wide West
Guangdong	Wide East
Jiangsu	River Awakening
Liaoning	Distant Peace
Shanxi	Mountain West
Sichuan	Four Rivers
Yunnan	Cloud South

Let's Visit Hutongs

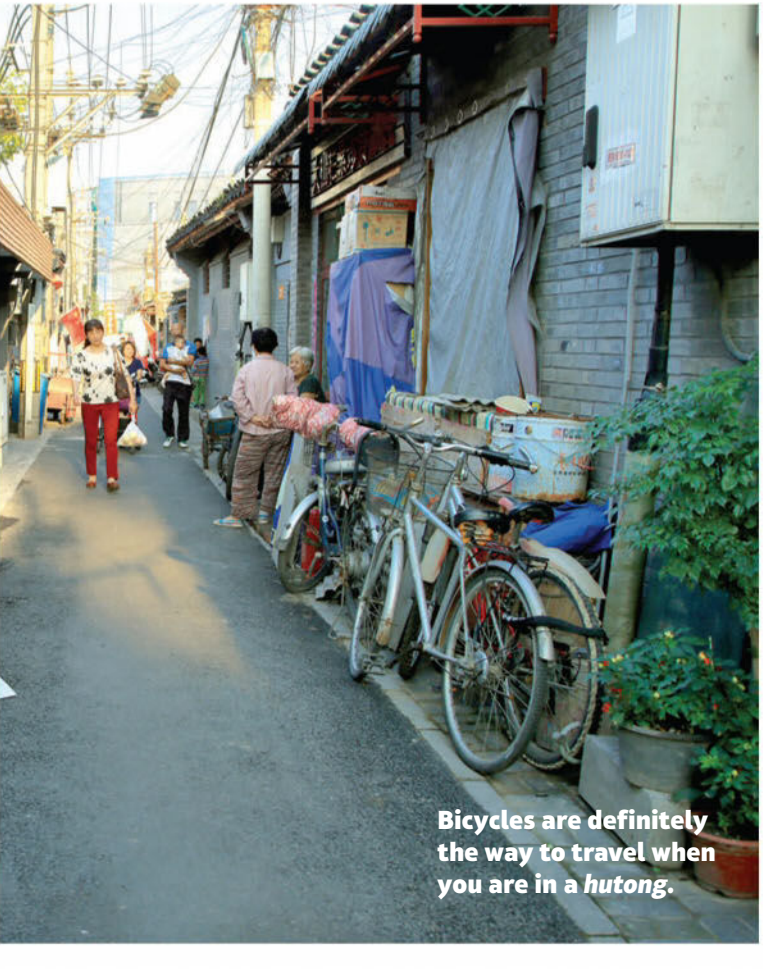
by Eti Bonn-Muller

A woman bicycles along a street in one of Beijing's *hutong* areas in 2014.



It looks as if it is all rooftops here in Datong *hutong*.

Nestled in the Old City of Beijing—a bustling, modern capital brimming with futuristic skyscrapers—are pockets of quiet, traditional neighborhoods known as *hutongs*. It is in these areas that you can still glimpse traces of how people lived hundreds of years ago. It is also there that elderly residents often maintain cultural traditions of centuries past. For example, some "walk their birds" to the park, where they hang the cages from tree branches as they chat or play chess with friends. (See photo on page 33.)



Bicycles are definitely the way to travel when you are in a *hutong*.

A Classic Design

Over the years, the term *hutong* has become synonymous with "neighborhood," but it literally translates as "alleyway." It was in these areas that a series of narrow *hutongs* connected dozens of *siheyuan* (one-story "courtyard houses" with pitched roofs), one after another. Thus, together, they formed little neighborhoods. All of the rooms within a house were built to face a central, enclosed courtyard. This classical Beijing design was conceived when the capital was established in 1267, during the Yuan dynasty when the Mongols ruled China. Some argue that the word *hutong* derives from the Mongolian word for "water well," but no one knows for sure.

Originally, the *siheyuan* were built to house nobles and government officials. They were arranged along invisible north-south and east-west axes according to the principles of *Zhouli*, a Chinese ritual text based on **Confucianism**. Yet, look at a *hutong* today, and you will see that its shape more closely resembles that of a fishbone, rather than a precise grid. As the neighborhoods gradually formed over time, variations in the natural terrain—rivers, for example—slightly skewed the layouts. In addition, the entrance to an especially "good" courtyard house faced south. This aligned it with the precepts of *feng shui*, the Chinese practice of situating buildings and decorating their interiors in a harmonious and auspicious way (see also page 19).

As in today's cities, a *hutong*'s name usually reflects what the area was known for: a river, lake, park, type of food, marketplace, or the like. Thus, many of these names are still in use today. For instance, you can stroll through

Confucianism refers to the philosophical system practiced by the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551–479 B.C.) that emphasizes order, moderation, and cooperation between superiors and subordinates.

The main street in the *hutong* known as Jingvang

Jin Yu ("Goldfish") *Hutong* and *Yin Wan* ("Silver Bowl") *Hutong*. There are even neighborhoods named for their famous "duck meat" and "chicken feet."

A Guide to Who's Inside

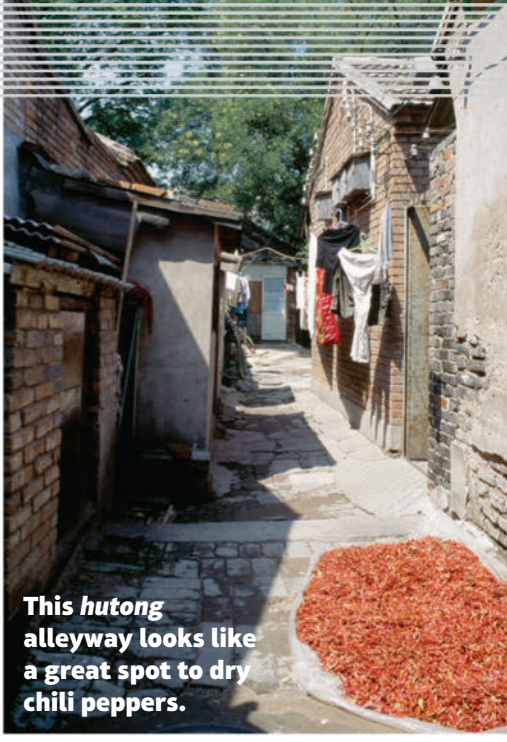
The decoration above the entrance to a courtyard house tells the story of its original occupants. The number of cylindrical, wooden lintels, or "doorstops," indicated the status of the owner's family. For example, two doorstops told all that an official lived in this home, while 12 meant it belonged to a relative of the emperor. Similarly, the two marble piers, or drums, flanking the entrance to a *siheyuan* were symbolic as well. If the piers were circular, they showed that a military officer lived there. If they were square, the owner was a civil servant. If they had been shaped to resemble lions, the *siheyuan* was home to a member of the emperor's family. Even the number of steps leading up to the residence

So many choices at this *hutong* outdoor market! What would you pick?

offered a clue about the occupant. Low-level officials could have no more than two steps; upper-level officials could have up to eight. Only the emperor could have the "supreme" number of nine!

Originally, *siheyuan* were for the ruling elite, and a single family occupied each spacious home. By the early 1940s, there were more than 3,000 *hutong* neighborhoods, and individuals from all walks of life now enjoyed these unique residences.

Calligraphy brushes for sale in a *hutong* artist's shop



This *hutong* alleyway looks like a great spot to dry chili peppers.

By the mid-20th century, it had become common practice for many families or extended family members (sometimes up to two dozen) to share a single courtyard house or to rent out space in their homes to tenants. Today, it is thought that no more than 1,000 *hutongs* still exist. Most of the others were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution of the 1970s and 1980s, as well as during a large housing and construction boom that began in the 1990s and continues to this day.

Close Quarters

Hutongs are famously narrow. This makes them great places to ride bikes, rather than drive cars. As a result, bicycles play a big role in the lifestyle of the people who live in these areas. By definition, in Beijing, an alleyway is supposed to be no more than 30 feet wide, but many are much narrower. In fact, the narrowest *hutong* in Beijing is a mere 22 inches wide! Since the roads in these neighborhoods were originally made of mud, there is a saying that, when it was windy, Old Beijing was like an incense burner—with all of the dust blowing up and swirling around in the air in the confines of these narrow passages. When it rained, the roads were so muddy that they were nearly impossible to cross.

Let's play! The bird seems to be watching his "friends" play a game in an area of a *hutong* set for demolition.

In recent years, some wealthy individuals, including media mogul Rupert Murdoch, have lavishly renovated a handful of private courtyard houses to include up-to-date infrastructure. Others have been modernized and turned into hotels. Still, some *hutongs* are rumored to have sewage systems dating to the Ming dynasty! Of the remaining *siheyuan* that belong to average citizens, most have no indoor toilets. Residents must walk outside and down the alleyway to use a shared public facility, even on the coldest of mornings. To bathe, residents must also use public facilities outside their homes. Some people do, however, boil water and keep a towel and basin

by the door for day-to-day washing. Another feature of this culture is that many houses are still heated by burning honeycomb-shaped coal briquettes.

Hutong communities are very tight-knit. Residents all know their neighbors, and they usually leave their doors open. Orange and white cats are often seen tiptoeing from roof to roof of courtyard houses. The walls of courtyard houses are about 20 inches thick and serve to keep those inside warm in the winter and cool in the summer. With everyone living so close to one another, the thickness of the walls also helps to block chatter from neighbors. Ventilation is poor, but small windows located high up on the walls help with airflow.

See the bike, hanging laundry, and brooms? What else do you see? All definitely says this courtyard house is very much in use today!

Home Sweet Home

Despite the challenges of the *hutong* lifestyle, many people do want to live in these charming historic neighborhoods. For young people, the location in the city center means that they can easily meet up with friends at their favorite noodle shops and hangouts. Older people appreciate the one-story layout that offers them easy access to their families and friends. As was true hundreds of years ago, some residents still delight in plucking ripe persimmons and dates from trees blossoming in their courtyards. Others maintain the tradition, started in centuries past by nobles, of keeping pigeons in coops and attaching whistles to them so that all can hear the music as the birds soar above the neighborhood. Many still store their homegrown vegetables outside most of the year to keep them fresh and cool. They then use the inedible rinds of dried-out gourds as sponges to wash their dishes.

In the early 21st century, the Chinese government set aside 33 *hutong* preservation districts, or areas where courtyard houses cannot be torn down and replaced with modern structures. This mandate protects some 600 *hutong* neighborhoods. Others, sadly, will most likely disappear over time. A small number of nonprofit organizations, such as the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center, are working at a furious pace to document these neighborhoods and the recollections of residents before these precious portals to the past are lost forever.

The owners of these *hutong* shops fit an impressive variety of goods into a small space.

Eti Bonn-Muller *is a writer and editor (*globaleditorialservices.com*), with an academic background in archaeology, and coauthor of* The Past Revealed: Great Discoveries in Archaeology.

And Today

by Patrick Wertmann

With a population of more than 21 million, Beijing is now the second largest city in China. (Shanghai is first.) Its transformation over the last 30 years has turned the formerly austere Communist capital into a bustling metropolis (see crowded street above during a festival in 2014) with international prestige. Beijing still functions as the political, educational, and cultural center of China, just as it did for much of the past eight centuries.

If you visit Beijing, it is still possible to discover the history and charm of the city's ancient alleys on a bike, as you pedal along the winding *hutong* passageways (see pages 30–35) and the moat of the Forbidden City (see pages 20–22). Turn a corner, and you will see some of the new and breathtaking skyscrapers that appear to defy gravity.

The transformation of Beijing, however, has brought great challenges, one of them the result of increased traffic (see inset photo of the business skyline at night). It is hoped that ongoing work on the subway system will help. Did you know that Beijing has the second longest subway system in the world, with a total length of 334 miles? Each day, more than nine million commuters board the trains. So, the problem is not the public transportation system, but rather the millions of cars that clog the city's streets. The pollution they create, together with the pollution produced by factories in and around the capital, poses a great danger both to the environment and to the people living there. When you visit Beijing today, you will likely see the people wearing masks as they walk through a gray haze. Sometimes, the pollution is so bad that schools are closed. For special events, the government has banned cars from streets in and around the city's center.

INTEREST-INGLY

China's Guardian Lions

by Sarah Novak

Huge beasts, one male and one female, protect the entrances to palaces, temples, mansions, and other important buildings in China. These guardian lion statues flank the entrances to restaurants and shopping malls as well (the pair above stand guard within the Forbidden City). They are also found in Chinese communities around the world. In Chinese culture, the lion symbolizes strength and good fortune and defends against evil.

Whether carved from stone, such as marble or granite, or cast in metal, typically bronze or iron, these massive statues are always used in pairs, one on each side of a door or gate. Looking out on the left (your right as you approach the entrance) is the male lion, with his right front paw on a ball that represents the world. On the other side, the female lion rests her left paw on a lion cub, representing the nurture of life. The two lions illustrate the Chinese concept of *yin* and *yang*: opposites that create one whole. In the mouths of some guardian lion statues is a big pearl, a symbol of wisdom and power. These statues are designed so that the pearl can move around but not be removed.

Historians believe lions were brought to China during the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220), a time of increasing trade and diplomacy along the **Silk Road**. The lions were from Central Asia and were smaller than the more familiar African lion. The Chinese word for "lion" (*shi*) is believed to come from the Persian word for "lion" (*ser*). **Interestingly**, in China, unlike in the West, these statues are never called "fu dogs." Explanations vary—some think the term refers to Chinese dog breeds that resemble lions, such as the shih tzu, chow chow, or Tibetan mastiff. Others say that "fu" sounds like the Chinese word for "prosperity" and the word for "Buddha."

Sarah Novak *is a writer who specializes in historical byways and curiosities.*

Silk Road refers to an ancient network of trade routes between China and the Mediterranean Sea.

WHAT'S WRONG HERE?

GUIDING HIS boat with a sure hand on the steering oar, King Edgar is rowed along the River Dee next to Chester, an English city near the border of Wales. Edgar ruled England from A.D. 959 to 975 and was the first to unite English kingdoms under one ruler. A story told in old English chronicles describes how Edgar had eight princes from Wales and Scotland meet him at Chester and then row his boat while he steered it. In this way, the chroniclers explain, Edgar demonstrated how rulers could work together as a team instead of fighting as rivals. With his talent for diplomacy, he became known as "Edgar the Peaceful." Modern-day historians are not sure the incident actually occurred. However, this 19th-century illustration depicts a colorful version of the story, with the eight princes plying their oars in unison as they pass by Chester's castle and walls. But look closely – what's wrong here? Why isn't this an accurate depiction of Chester during Edgar's reign? See the answer on page 41.

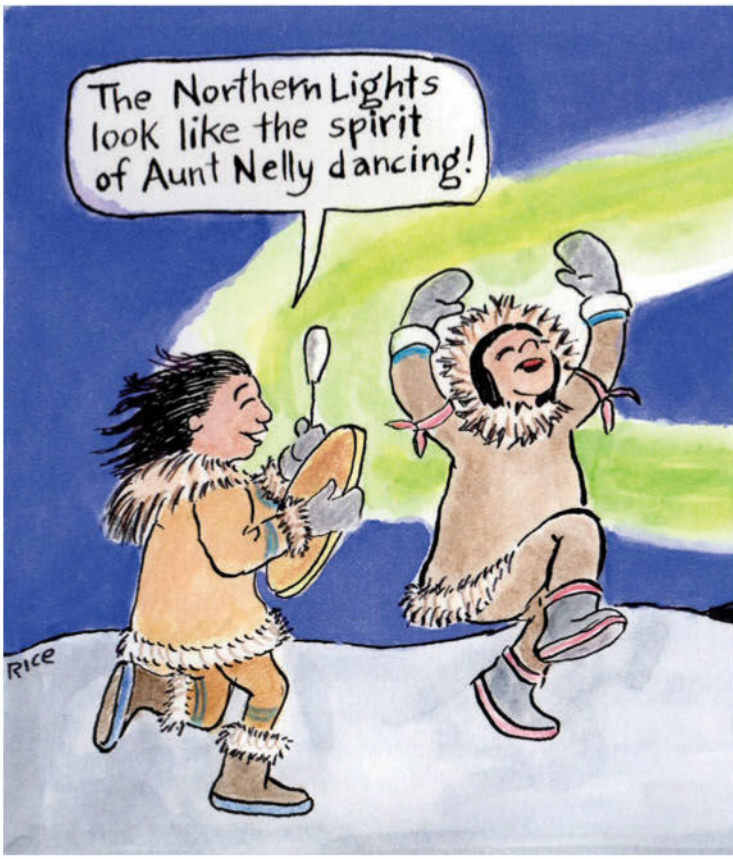
ASK AWAY!

Have a question about world history, archaeology, paleontology? Dr. Dig and Calliope are ready to answer your questions.

Q What happened to Japanese-Americans who lived in Hawaii and California during WWII?

—Hakim, Web post

A IN 1942, the United States was at war with Japan and many people were suspicious of Japanese Americans, questioning their loyalty to the United States. President Franklin Roosevelt signed an order that people of Japanese ancestry, whether citizens or people with visas allowing them to live and work in the United States, should be forcibly moved from their homes because it was believed that they might try to help the enemy. Around 120,000 people who had broken no laws were sent to live in camps in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Conditions in many of these camps were terrible, and many people lost their jobs and property when they were forced to leave their homes. In 1988, the United States Congress passed a Civil Liberties Act that recognized the "grave injustice done to both citizens and permanent residents of Japanese ancestry." President Bill Clinton, in his letter of apology, wrote, "I offer a sincere apology to you for the actions that unfairly denied Japanese Americans and their families fundamental liberties during World War II."



—Dr. Dig

Q Is anything definite known about Homer other than that he wrote the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*?

—Abbie, Web post

A THE PERSON referred to today as Homer is often considered a semi-

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legendary figure. In ancient times and still today, he is most often credited as one of the greatest Greek epic poets. Yet, we have no definitive proof that he existed. All that we do have are accounts of his life that were written many years after he lived. Ancient historians were not even sure when he was supposed to have lived. As a result, there are many theories about him and his poems. We do know that epic poets—people who sang long stories about the deeds performed by heroes—have a long tradition in many cultures. So, people such as Homer definitely did exist. It is apparent from elements of Homer's works that he was drawing on oral traditions that had been handed down for centuries. Therefore, a single Homer could have composed the works in the form that we know today. However, it is almost certain that several authors also contributed in some way to the poems. Many ancient passages note that Homer was blind. This belief also has a long tradition in the ancient world—a time when blind people were often employed as musicians.

—calliope

Q Do the Inuit have any legends about the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights)?

—Clay, Web post

A THE INUIT people traditionally live near or within the Arctic Circle, so they were able to see the Northern Lights fairly often. Their stories about the Aurora Borealis differed from group to group. The most common was that when people died, their spirits passed into the heavens. In order to guide the way, spirits of those who had gone before, the sky-dwellers, would light torches to guide newcomers. In heaven, they would feast together and play a ball game, similar to soccer, using a walrus skull as the ball. Other legends reported that the lights were spirits of humans or animals dancing.

THIS & THAT

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Meghai C.
—Fairfield Woods Middle School
Fairfield, Connecticut

Great job, Meghai! Horus would have liked that you included the sun disk atop his head.

Dinosaur Meal

How do archaeologists find out what dinosaurs ate? Also, can you do an issue about cats?

—Jessica F., age 14

Jessica, we love your envelope decoration. A good Web site on dinosaurs is http://paleobiology.si.edu/dinosaurs/ *And, look for an answer from Dr. Dig in an upcoming issue.* DIG *has included cats in several issues, including the July/August 2007 issue on "Animals of the Dead."*

Joke

Q: What do you call a skeleton that won't work?

A: Lazy bones!

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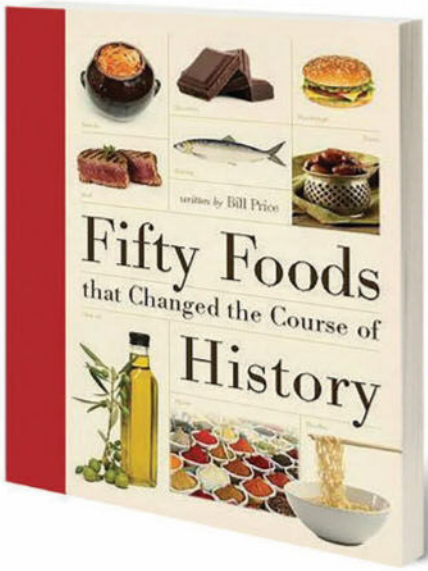
OFF THE SHELF

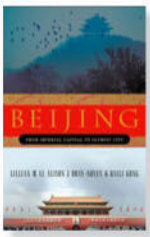


[BOOK]

Historic Foods

Fifty Foods that Changed the Course of History by Bill Price (Firefly, 2014, ***www.fireflybooks.com***) is a fascinating read. Among the highlighted foods is Peking Duck. Sidebars and photos complement and enhance the smooth-flowing text.

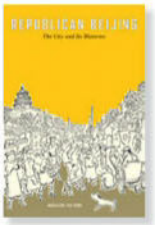
There are countless well-researched and well-written books about China and Beijing. Here are four:



[BOOK]
Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City by Lillian M. Li, Alison Dray-Novey, and Haili Kong (2008, St. Martin's Griffin, ***www.stmartins.com***).

[BOOK]
China's Lost Imperial Garden: The World's Most Exquisite Garden Rediscovered by Guo Daiheng, translated by Yawtsong Lee (2016, Shanghai Press, ***www.chinabooks.ch***)

[BOOK]
Seven Skeletons: The Evolution of the World's Most Famous Skeletons by Lydia Pyne (Penguin, 2016, ***www.penguinrandomhouse.com***)



[BOOK]
Republican Beijing and Its Histories by Madeleine Yue Dong (2003, UCAL Press, ***www.ucpress.edu***)

Cricket Resources

China's Mythical Rulers (DIG1511)
China's Yellow River (DIG1502)
China's Great Wall (CAL0911)
China's Shi Huangdi (DIG0904)

ON THE NET

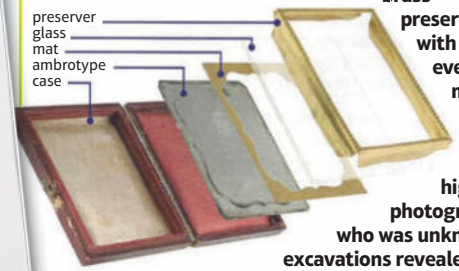
- This site is a must for anyone interested in China and East Asia—and it is factual, up-to-date, and well-presented: ***http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/***
- Click here for "A Guide to China's Capital City," with links to a great variety of related topics, including "Tales of Streets" and "Hutongs": ***http://china.org.cn/english/features/beijing/30785.htm***
- Beijing is huge, and its history, long, so we thought a great URL would be one that has maps to help you find your way around and see what's what: ***www.ebeijing.gov.cn/BeijingInfo/BJInfoTips/Beijingmaps/***

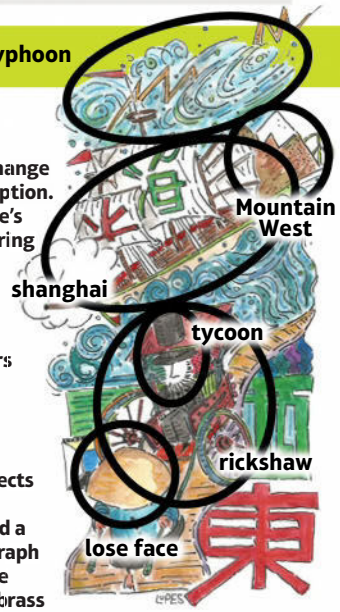
Answers

Fun with Words, pg 28:

What's Wrong Here?, pg 37: **Cities change through time and Chester is no exception. The stone castle shown in the picture's background was not in existence during Edgar's time. The original castle here dates to around A.D. 1070, when the first Norman ruler of England, William the Conqueror, ordered it built. Note: Norman refers to the people living in the region of Normandy in northern France who conquered England in A.D. 1066.**

Solving a Conundrum, pg 56: **The objects are part of a case for a tintype or ambrotype photograph. The case held a glass cover plate and a brass photograph mat, the photograph, and, finally, the brass preserver with its "flaps" holding everything in place. McBride made another remarkable discovery. The fire pit was located in the photographic studio of a highly respected photographer named C. J. Young, who was unknown to McBride until excavations revealed his studio.**





This issue's EAGLE EYES are on pages: 21, 34, 55, and back cover.

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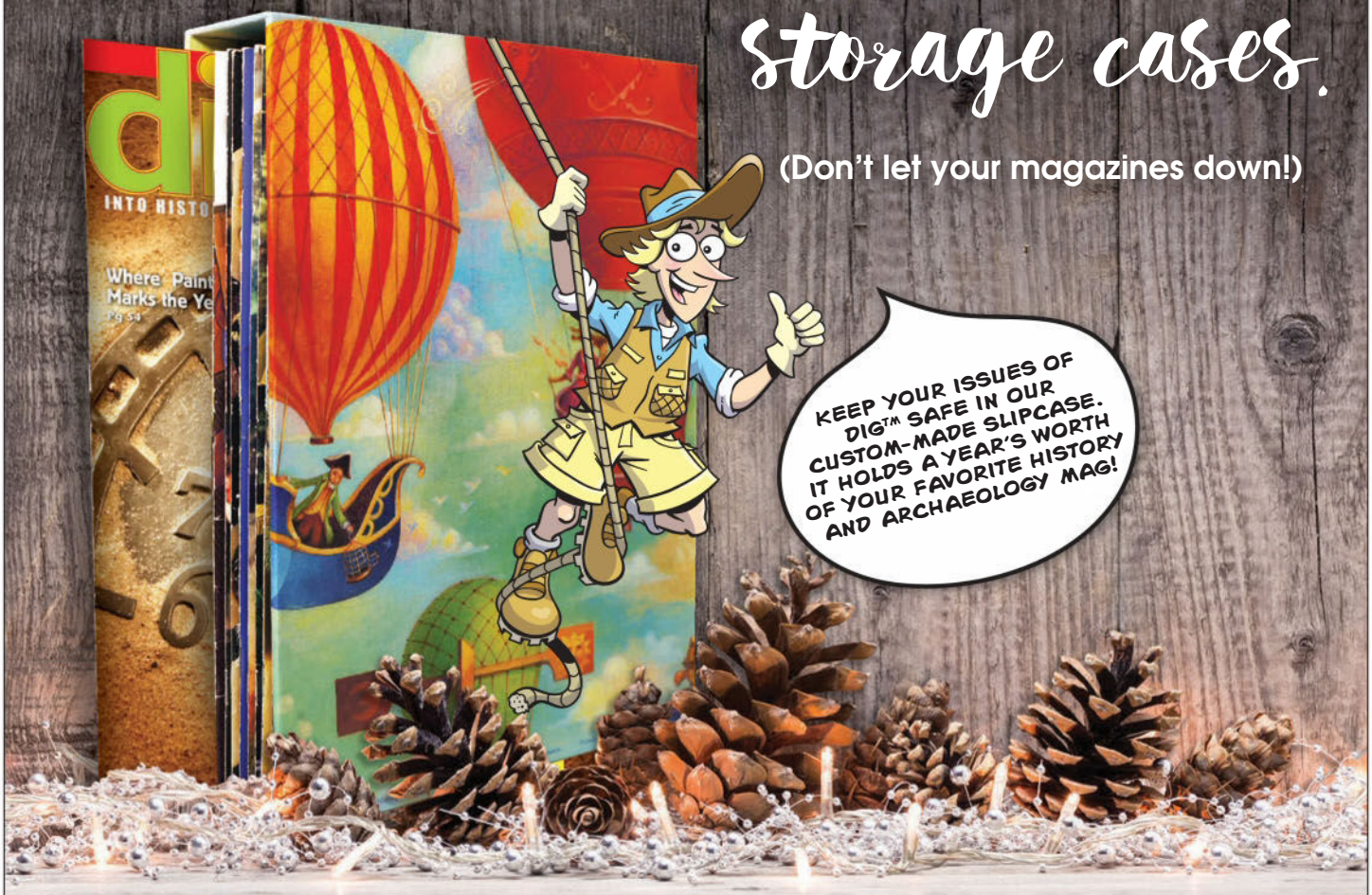
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CHECK OUT WHY PEONIES PG 50!

An Amazingg Tomb Find

It's to Dabaotai, an area about 9 miles to the southwest of the center of Beijing, that we travel here. And, to be exact, we will be visiting tombs that date back more than 2,000 years.

Meet Liu Jian, the owner of the tomb.

Here's the reason why Liu Jian's coffin is still in such good condition—it was made from the wood of this type of tree, the catalpa tree.

The number of cypress beams used to fashion Liu Jian's tomb is estimated to have been around 15,800.

Beams cut from cypress trees were used for the wall that surrounded the tomb. The beams are all exactly the same size. See pages 44–45 for an illustration of the tomb layout.

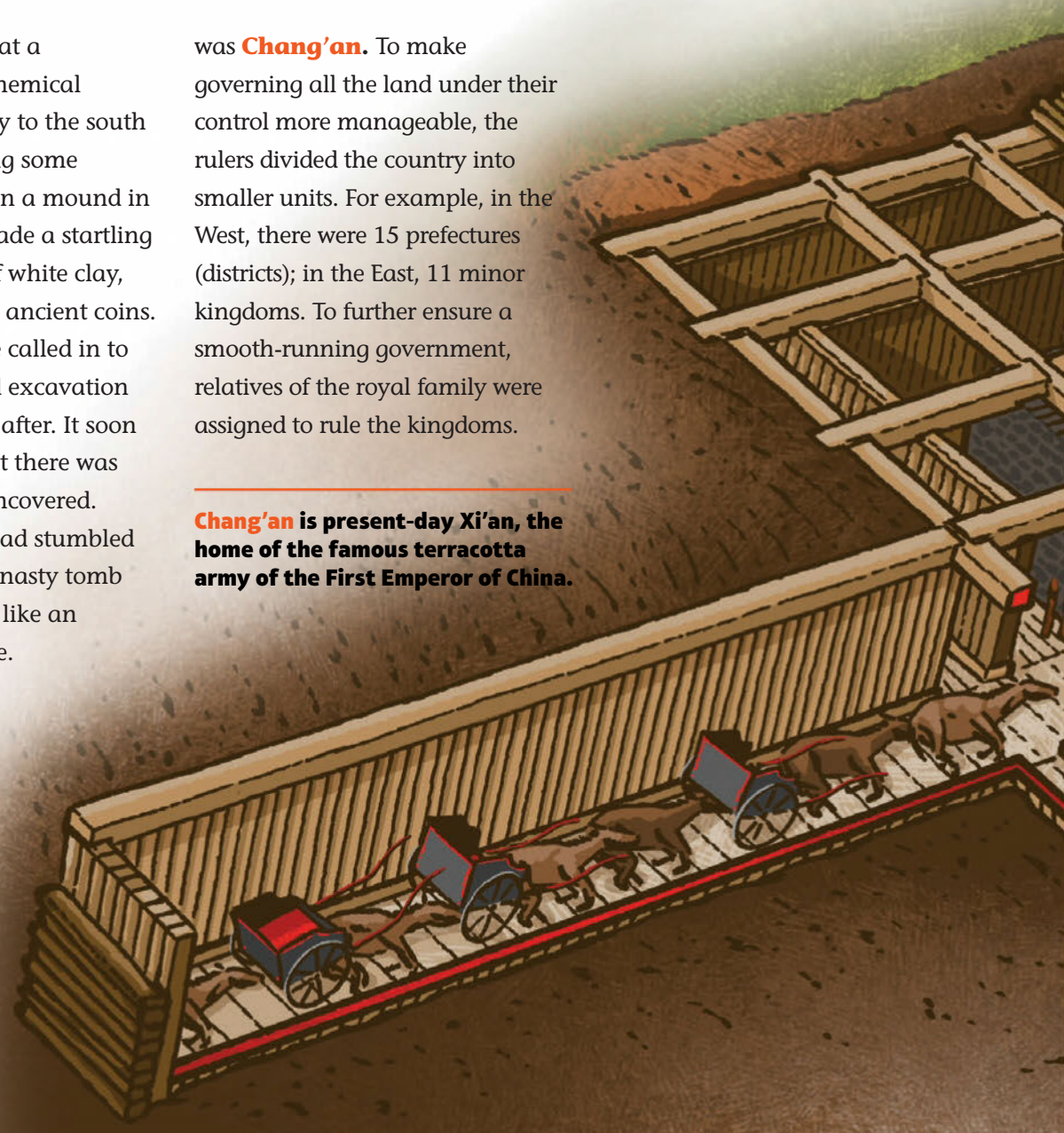
'Yellow Battens Aligned Together'

by Margarete Pruech
illustration by John Gordon-Swogger

Workers at a petrochemical refinery to the south of Beijing were doing some construction work on a mound in 1974, when they made a startling discovery—layers of white clay, charcoal, and some ancient coins. Archaeologists were called in to inspect the site, and excavation work began shortly after. It soon became evident that there was much more to be uncovered. What the workers had stumbled upon was a Han dynasty tomb that had been built like an underground palace.

Whose?

During the first half of the Han dynasty, the so-called Western Han (206 B.C.–A.D. 9), the capital city was **Chang'an.** To make governing all the land under their control more manageable, the rulers divided the country into smaller units. For example, in the West, there were 15 prefectures (districts); in the East, 11 minor kingdoms. To further ensure a smooth-running government, relatives of the royal family were assigned to rule the kingdoms.



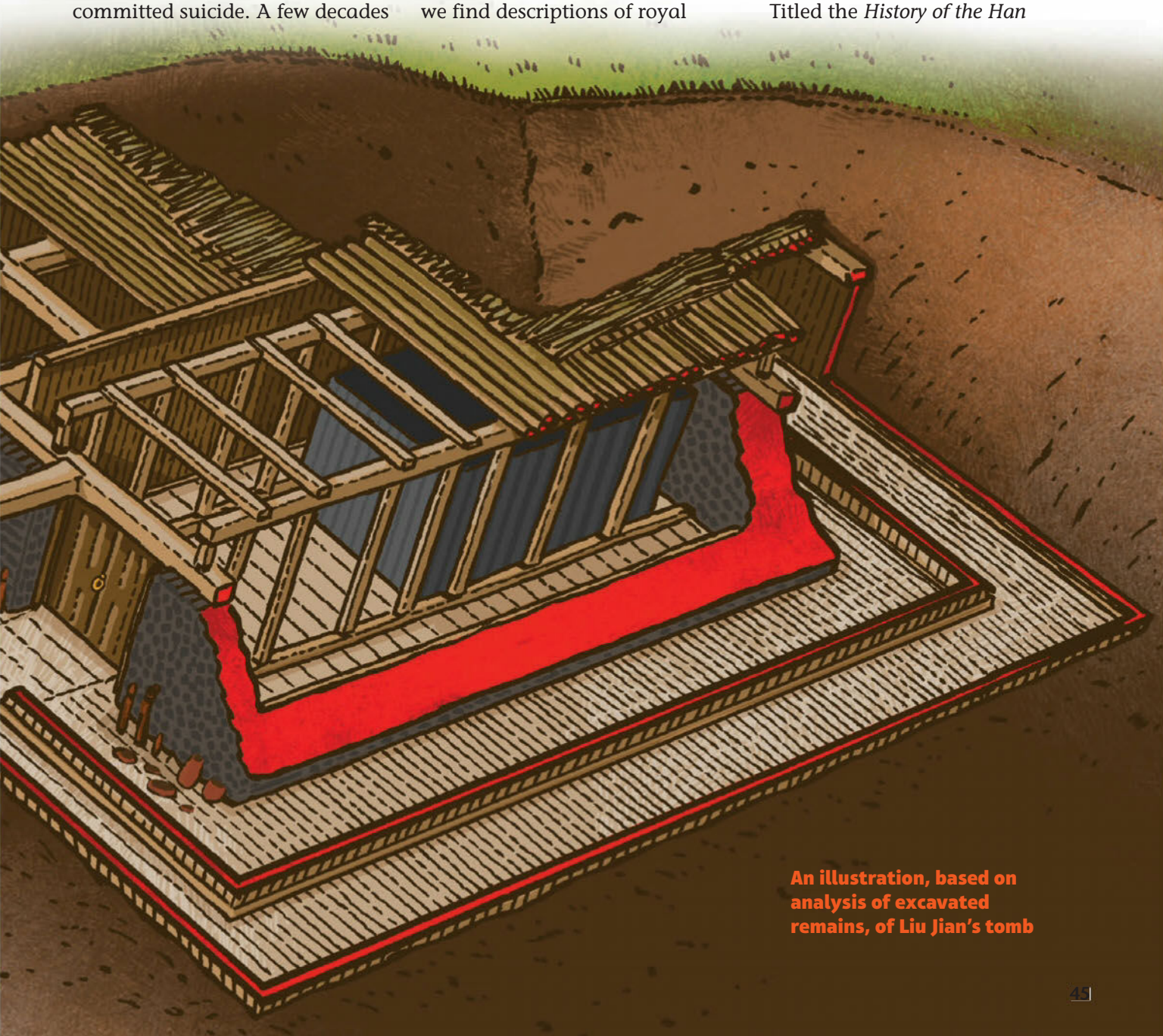
Chang'an is present-day Xi'an, the home of the famous terracotta army of the First Emperor of China.

One of these kingdoms in the East was the former state of Yan, whose capital was Ji, present-day Beijing. In 113 B.C., Emperor Wu appointed his son Liu Dan the king of Yan.

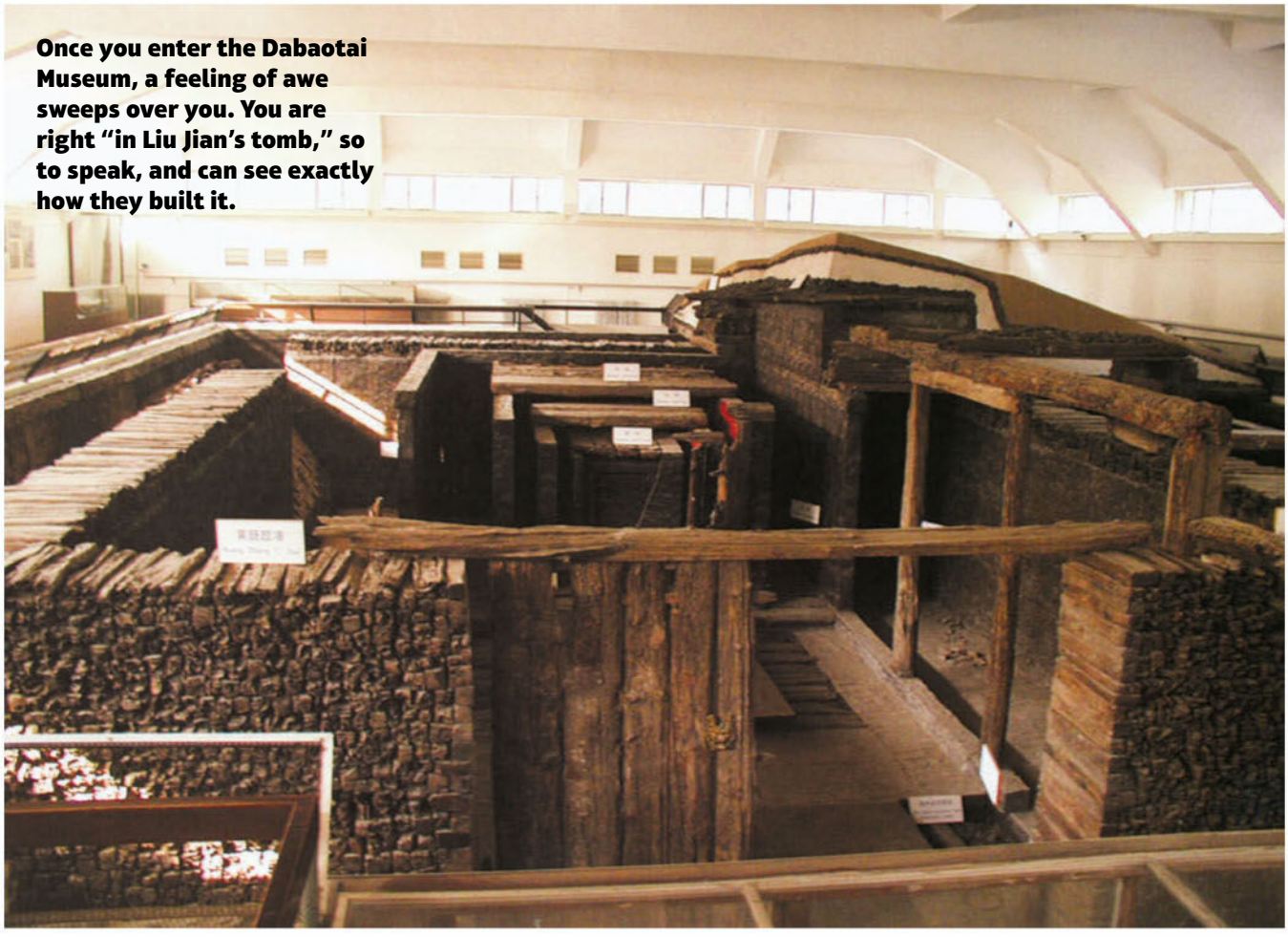
Although Liu Dan was very intelligent, he was also power-hungry and determined to succeed his father as emperor. After his plan failed, he committed suicide. A few decades later, in 73 B.C., Liu Dan's son, Liu Jian, became the new king. Powerful and fond of luxury, he reigned until his death in 45 B.C. His tomb, the find in 1974, is a mirror of his sumptuous lifestyle. (See illustration below.)

The Reason for 'Yellow'

In the records of the Han dynasty, we find descriptions of royal tombs that help us understand how the ancient Chinese constructed these underground palaces for their dead. One type of tomb was the *huangchang ticou*, which translates as "yellow battens aligned together." The first mention of *huangchang ticou* is found in the biography of Huo Guang, a renowned general. Titled the *History of the Han*



An illustration, based on analysis of excavated remains, of Liu Jian's tomb



Once you enter the Dabaotai Museum, a feeling of awe sweeps over you. You are right "in Liu Jian's tomb," so to speak, and can see exactly how they built it.

Dynasty, it states that Emperor Xuan (91–49 B.C.) granted Huo Guang a full imperial burial. This meant that, buried with him, were a jade suit, a set of nested coffins made of catalpa wood, and a **stave wall** of the yellow core wood from the cypress tree.

The exact location of Huo Guang's burial site is still not known, but the discovery of Liu Jian's tomb offers archaeologists and historians the first look inside this type of burial place. As is often the case, Liu Jian's tomb was looted by robbers in ancient times. So, too, was that of his wife, who had been buried close by in a separate and smaller structure. Yet, despite the looting that did take place, both are well preserved and offer insight into the art of tomb building more than 2,000 years ago.

Let's Take a Tour

Several hundred cubic feet of cypress trees were used in the construction of Liu Jian's tomb. Its length, from south to north, measures 76 feet; its width, from east to west, 59 feet. And it extends down into the earth approximately 15 feet! The ceiling and floor are lined with charcoal and white clay, each of which served a specific purpose. Charcoal was used to absorb moisture both inside and outside of the tomb, while the white clay prevented water from entering the tomb.

A passageway leads to a winding corridor that ends at a chamber. Beyond lie the burial

A stave wall is one formed by setting wooden planks vertically between a lower sill and an upper wall plate.

Here's a close look at the wall made of beams cut from the yellow cypress tree. See how perfectly they all fit together!

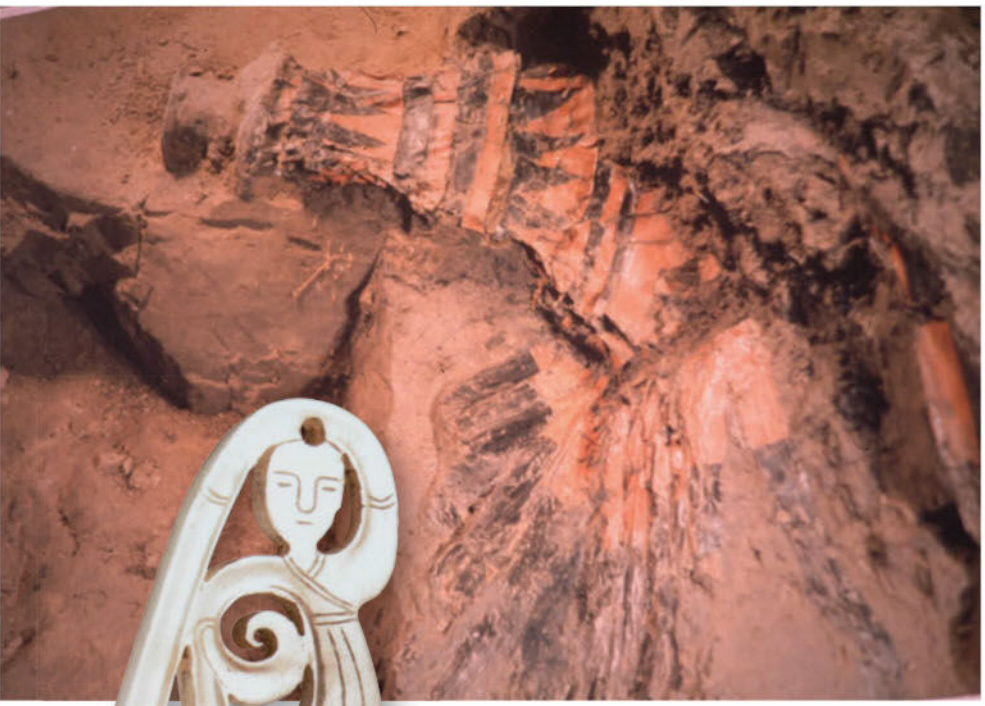
chamber and a rear chamber. Passageways connect the various sections. The most distinctive feature of the tomb is a wall fashioned from beams hewn from the yellow cypress tree (above). Each beam measures 3.9 by 3.9 inches. This wall, which is 8.9 feet tall and 138 feet long, separates the tomb's outer and inner hallways.

At the south end of the wall is a door, about 9.8 feet high and 12 feet wide, that leads to the different chambers. A gilded bronze doorknocker, shaped to resemble the head of a beast (right), served to ward off evil spirits. Although the chambers were still intact and well preserved when the tomb was uncovered, robbers had already plundered most of the valuable grave goods. Still, more than 1,000 burial objects, most of them in fragments, remained, including many made of bronze, iron, and jade, as well as a variety of pottery and textile products. While the remains may resemble pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, they do offer a vivid picture of how members of the royal family lived and what they held most dear.

And That's Not All

In the northern section of the tomb, by the gateway, archaeologists discovered three carriages and 11 horses. All were real—that is, they were neither

How would you like to have this doorknocker on your home's front door?



Above: What a find! See the black and red lacquer still clearly recognizable on this wheel—lying here just as it was found on site. Left: One of a pair of beautifully fashioned jade pendants, each in the shape of a dancer, performing the famous "long-sleeve-dance"

models nor replicas. Records of the time noted that there were "carriages with crimson wheels and green cover" for the prince and dukes. One of the vehicles, painted with black and red lacquer, is adorned with gold ornaments.

In the outer corridor, a large number of clay figurines were found. They were the protectors of the tomb, who, it was believed at the time, would serve the deceased as servants and soldiers. Fragments of lacquered objects and also pieces of iron tools were also found in this area. During the Han dynasty period, iron was a very important raw material.

Perhaps the most astonishing find was bones—those of a leopard and some horses. The

What Is Catalpa?

The catalpa or small-leaf phoenix tree is deciduous, as it sheds its leaves every year (a row of catalpa trees at right). Recognized for its high-quality timber, it was used widely during the Han dynasty to build coffins. Catalpa is also prized for its hardness and resistance to rot and corrosion, so many people believed it would protect a corpse from insects. Even today, after one or two thousand years, coffins that were fashioned from Chinese catalpa are just as solid as when they were new. And a tap on the wood still produces a melodic sound.

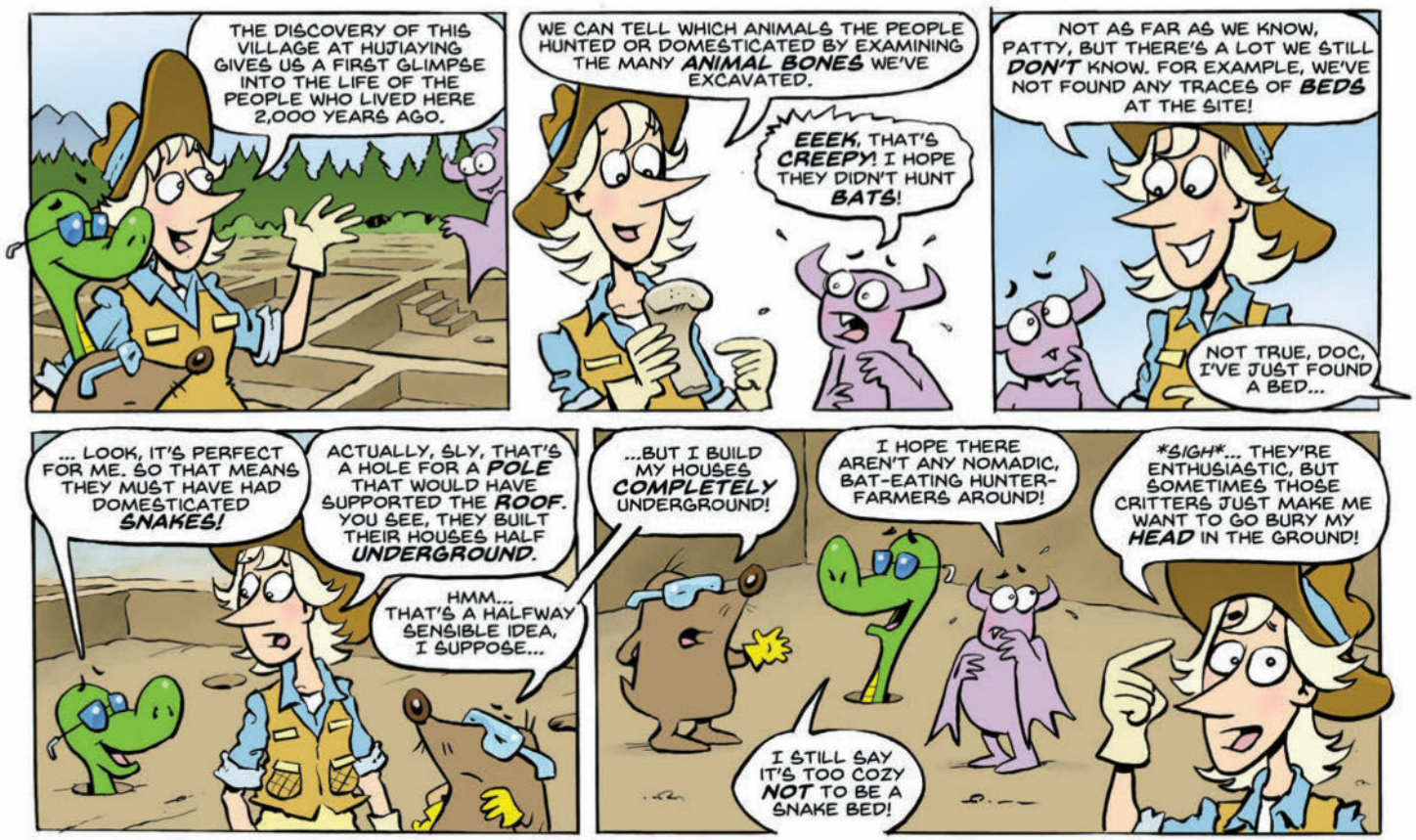
evidence suggests that Liu Jian loved animals. In the front chamber, which probably served as the sitting room in the underground palace, bones of swans, swan geese, cattle, sheep, and fish were uncovered. Liu Jian must have loved to play games, such as Chinese chess, because a wonderful set of ivory tokens and a rather large game board had been placed in this room. Four of the tokens were decorated with a carved flying dragon, while a leaping tiger decorated each of the other four pieces.

The rear chamber in the tomb was Liu Jian's final resting place. There was a five-layered casket made from the very precious yellow catalpa wood (see sidebar opposite). The find of two square pieces of jade, each with small holes cut in it, suggests that Liu Jian's body was buried in a ceremonial jade suit (*yuyi*), as was the custom for members of the royal family.

And Today

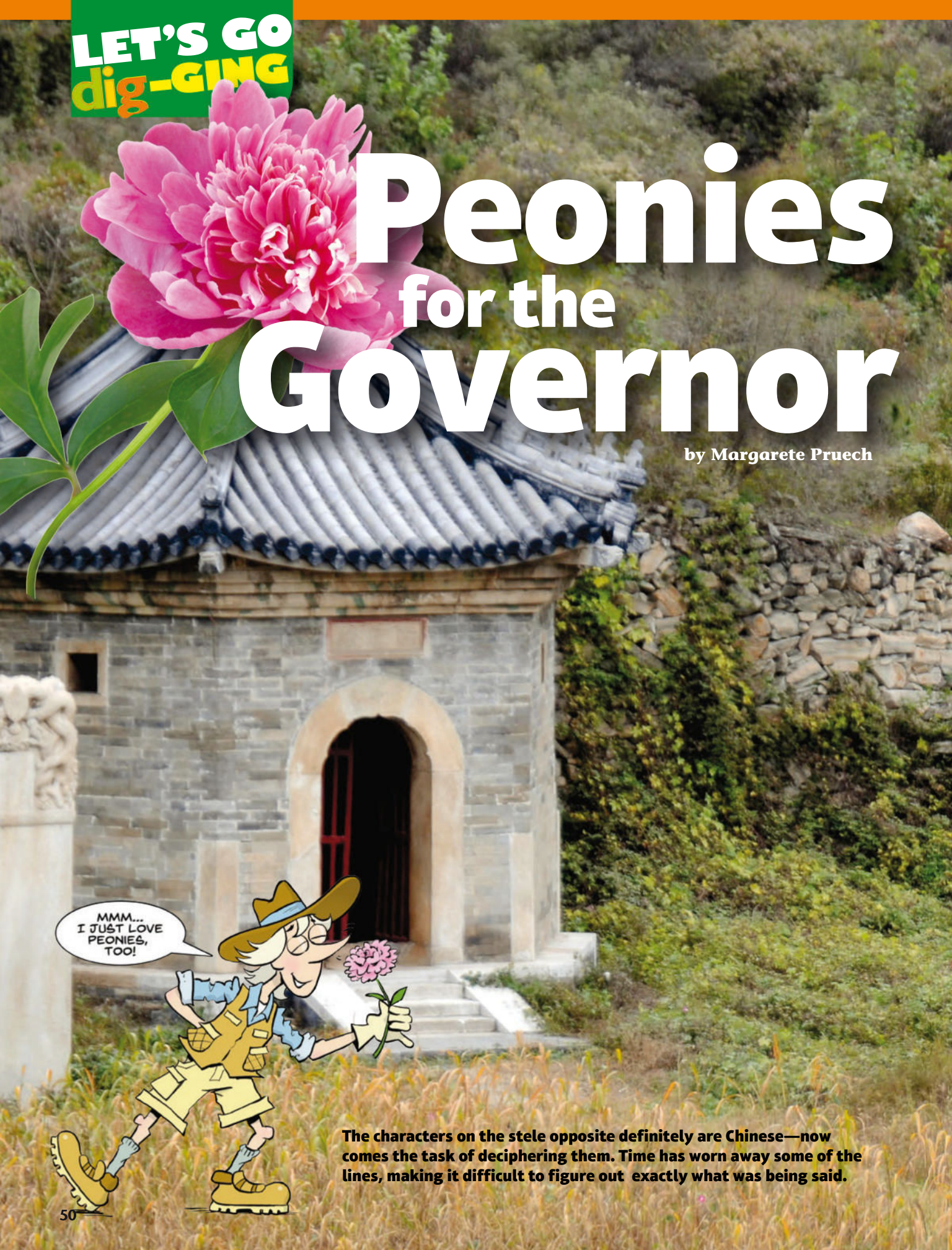
Enter the Beijing Dabaotai Western Han Tombs Museum today and you will be standing right over the site of Liu Jian's tomb complex. Construction of the museum began in 1979, and it was opened to the public on December 1, 1983. On view are the underground burial chambers and many of the excavated finds.

THE ADVENTURES OF dr. dig BY CHUCK WHELON


THE DISCOVERY OF THIS VILLAGE AT HUJIAYING GIVES US A FIRST GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE 2,000 YEARS AGO.
WE CAN TELL WHICH ANIMALS THE PEOPLE HUNTED OR DOMESTICATED BY EXAMINING THE MANY ANIMAL BONES WE'VE EXCAVATED.
EEEK, THAT'S CREEPY! I HOPE THEY DIDN'T HUNT BATS!
NOT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, PATTY, BUT THERE'S A LOT WE STILL DON'T KNOW. FOR EXAMPLE, WE'VE NOT FOUND ANY TRACES OF BEDS AT THE SITE!
NOT TRUE, DOC, I'VE JUST FOUND A BED...
... LOOK, IT'S PERFECT FOR ME. SO THAT MEANS THEY MUST HAVE HAD DOMESTICATED SNAKES!
ACTUALLY, SLY, THAT'S A HOLE FOR A POLE THAT WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE ROOF. YOU SEE, THEY BUILT THEIR HOUSES HALF UNDERGROUND.
HMM... THAT'S A HALFWAY SENSIBLE IDEA, I SUPPOSE...
...BUT I BUILD MY HOUSES COMPLETELY UNDERGROUND!
I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY NOMADIC, BAT-EATING HUNTER-FARMERS AROUND!
SIGH... THEY'RE ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT SOMETIMES THOSE CRITTERS JUST MAKE ME WANT TO GO BURY MY HEAD IN THE GROUND!
I STILL SAY IT'S TOO COZY NOT TO BE A SNAKE BED!

Peonies for the Governor

by Margarete Pruech



The characters on the stele opposite definitely are Chinese—now comes the task of deciphering them. Time has worn away some of the lines, making it difficult to figure out exactly what was being said.

In the summer of 2011, construction workers were clearing land southwest of Beijing, when they discovered a lavish tomb covered by a ***tumulus****. Archaeologists were called in, and they immediately began rescue excavations. The great fear was that tomb robbers would plunder the site before it could be adequately protected. The tomb had a* ***funerary stele*** *(at right in the photo at left) with the name of the tomb's owner—Liu Ji (劉濟), his dates (A.D. 757–810), and his position (a renowned military governor during the Tang dynasty). The inscription also noted that Liu Ji's wife was buried in the tomb as well. The find caused a sensation throughout China.*

Let's Take a Look

Liu Ji's burial site is located in the town of Changgou in the Fangshan District, about 35 miles from downtown Beijing. According to the principles of *feng shui* (see page 19), Liu Ji chose a very favorable site: It faced a river and was bordered on three sides by mountains. The tomb complex had been laid out from north to south and measured about 111.5 feet long. Its design is unique: A slanting passageway leads to the tomb. On the walls flanking the entranceway are painted scenes detailing the funeral procession of Liu Ji and his wife. The lower section shows his funeral procession; the upper section, hers. A door, fashioned of bricks that were then painted, closed off the entrance to the front yard. In the yard, there were two funerary steles, as well as two side chambers with niches that originally had been filled with burial goods.

Archaeologists also discovered a painted **lotus throne**. Its purpose is not certain, but it is thought that a tomb guard or a wooden figurine might have sat here. The main room would have been the resting place for a huge stone coffin, but only fragments of this coffin remained in the tomb. A passageway from this area leads to the rear chamber.

The coffin was not the only part of the tomb that suffered severe damage. Signs of looting and destruction are evident everywhere. Archaeologists believe that the tomb had been robbed at least three times before it was discovered in 2011. While a great many of the burial goods

A tumulus is an ancient burial mound.

A funerary stele is an upright stone or slab with an inscribed or sculptured surface, used as a monument to commemorate the deceased.

A lotus throne is a pedestal-type throne in the form of a lotus flower for a seated figure of the Buddha, the primary figure in the religion of Buddhism. Buddhists consider the lotus pure, as it is able to emerge from muddy waters and remain perfectly clean.

A 21st-century illustration of the *Shengxiao*, known in English as the Chinese zodiac.

were missing, some were found in the passageway, the side room, niches, the main burial chamber, and the rear chamber. Most of these were jade ornaments decorated with floral patterns, white-glazed porcelain bowls, bronze and iron weaponry, turquoise and amber ornaments, and glass fragments.

Meet the Couple

The inscribed steles, as well as brightly painted stone funerary figurines, were found near the gate of the main chamber. As the stele of Liu Ji's wife was found closer to the entrance, archaeologists assume that she died after her husband. The surface of the stele is decorated with images of officials holding the 12 **Chinese zodiac** symbols (see above). Peony flower patterns surround the inscription and are carved into the four corners as well.

Liu Ji's epitaph is written in a very archaic style called 篆書, or *zhuanshu*. *Zhuan* means "seal"; *shu* translates as "writing."

Quite noble, don't you think? In fact, this painted stone figure uncovered in Liu Ji's tomb seems almost ready to speak. Wonder what he could tell us!

The Chinese zodiac, also referred to as a horoscope, is a repeating cycle of 12 years, with each year being represented by an animal. Traditionally, these zodiac animals were used to identify the years.

The 24 Chinese characters were arranged in six lines, with each character fitted into an imaginary square:

盧龍節 唐 故幽州 盧龍節 度觀察
禦使中書令 贈太師 劉公墓誌之銘

When translated into English, they read:

Epitaph for Duke Liu of the Tang Dynasty, Former Military Commissioner of the Lulong Circuit in Youzhou, Surveillance Commissioner, and Secretariat Director; Posthumously Conferred the Honorary Title of Grand Preceptor

So, we know now that Liu Ji was a military commissioner in Lulong and served as superintendent for the minority people in the surrounding area. Lulong and Youzhou are names for the Beijing area that were used at that time.

Some Flowers for You

Liu Ji and his wife, like many Tang dynasty officials, loved peonies. It was also common among officials at the time to compete with one another with regard to receiving peonies as a reward from the emperor. The peony was known as "the appearance of the kingdom and heavenly fragrance." Designs that featured them were painted on the frame that led into Liu Ji's tomb, as well as on the epitaph. Colorful peony murals covered the surface of the four brick walls of the main chamber.

To create the paintings, the surface of most of the walls was covered first with lime and then with designs, using red, black, yellow, and green paint. These murals depict floral patterns, scenes from daily life, music and dance performances, animals, and plants. There are also scenes of colorfully painted buildings that offer a window into the customs of daily life, recreational activities, clothing and jewelry, and the splendid architecture of the Tang dynasty.

A Look to the Future

These wall decorations are extremely delicate, and so require special conservation treatment to maintain them. According to archaeologist Cheng Li, "Conservation of the tomb murals is very difficult and time-consuming....Much of the tomb's wall surfaces have now been covered by sheets of silver cloth that are impervious to light…and we continue to work to protect these delicate paintings."

Recognize this artifact found in Liu Ji's tomb? It's a spitoon, a container that people spit into.

Life in Hujiaying Village

by Patrick Wertmann
illustrated by Brad Walker

Have you or your friends ever thought about what it would be like to travel back in time and see how people lived their daily lives, let's say 2,000 years ago? Thanks to a discovery made in 2011 in a suburb in northwestern Beijing, this is now possible. Like so many recent archaeological discoveries, it happened by accident. It was made by a team of local archaeologists about to conduct a routine investigation before construction began on a road. A team member was checking the site with his Luoyang shovel—a small U-shaped tool that Chinese archaeologists frequently use—when he suddenly hit upon something that would lift the veil of time.

What Were These Finds?

Uncovered were the well-preserved remains of a village, now called Hujiaying, that had been built close to a now dried-up river. Among the finds were the foundations of 24 houses, 21 ash pits where people dumped their garbage, 11 kitchen stoves, and many utensils used in everyday life. (See illustration above.) What makes this village so interesting is the fact that it dates back more than 2,000 years, to the Eastern Zhou period (770–221 B.C.). In addition, all earlier finds from this time in the environs of Beijing had been burials. The discovery of this village offers the first glimpse into the actual lives of the people who lived there.

What Were Their Houses Like?

Further digging revealed that each had been built half underground, at a depth of approximately five feet. The layouts varied—some were oval, while others had a rectangular or irregular shape. Each covered an area that measured approximately 33 feet by 33 feet, and its entrance was located on the northwestern, eastern, or southern side. Some

houses had an oven that had been made from stone or earth. There was even one that had been built inside an earthen wall—just like a modern fireplace. If you visit the site, you will notice round holes in the ground. In times past, wooden poles had been stuck inside to support a roof made of straw and mud. Today, only the holes remain.

Farmers or Nomads? Perhaps Both?

Many other, smaller finds have been made that are helping us to reconstruct everyday life at the time. Among these are items made of pottery—jars, three-legged pots, and cups with stems, to name just a few. An analysis of their shapes and styles offer evidence that the people who made and used them combined characteristics of an agricultural society known to be from central China with those of nomadic peoples living in the **steppe** regions to the north of Beijing.

The location of this site was important, as it lay between these two culture zones and the influence of each is easy to detect. The items that were made

A steppe is a large area of flat, unforested grassland in many parts of the Eurasian continent.

of stone, bronze, or iron—axes, spindle whorls, knives, and sickles, for example—tell us about farming practices and handicrafts at the time. Weapons, such as arrowheads, allow us to imagine how the people hunted their food. In fact, we can determine exactly which animals the people hunted or domesticated for agricultural purposes by studying the many animal bones excavated at the site.

Thus, the finds at the Hujiaying site offer us a picture of a society that combined the features of two very different cultures. On the one hand, the people constructed permanent houses and practiced farming as a way of life. On the other hand, finds, such as their pottery, tell us that they were living the nomadic life as well.

The Questions Remain

From studying the remains of these people, we know that they were very tall. So, why were their houses so small? There were also no traces of beds. So, do you think they were comfortable in their homes? How do you think they would have slept? Did these people stay in their village throughout the year or did they travel as nomads? What do you think?

by A. Gwynn Henderson

Solving a Conundrum

A conundrum (kuh-NUHN-druh m) is a riddle or puzzle, and that is exactly what faced archaeologist Stephen McBride in 2015 at Camp Nelson Heritage Park. McBride has directed excavations for decades at this Civil War Army depot that once sprawled across 4,000 acres in central Kentucky, but he had never seen anything like this!

Field school students were working in the depot's commercial district, excavating a stone-lined fire pit (above) just north of the store where Army personnel could buy clothing, tobacco, and other merchandise. "What's this?" a student asked, holding out a dirty piece of clear flat glass. McBride had found thousands of pieces of clear flat window glass before, but this one was different (below). It was whole and had ground edges. It was small (1 3/8 by 1 5/8 inches)—too small for a windowpane. As work continued, so did the conundrum. Students uncovered a fragment of brass. This was not so odd, except that the fragment was actually a piece of folded-up brass, a "stack of brass," as McBride explained to me. Very odd! Then, nearby, they discovered another folded brass object, as well as other fragments of glass and unfolded brass.

Because brass does not corrode like iron, McBride could unfold the brass artifacts in the lab. The stack came apart in pieces at the folds. Eight pieces formed a hollow rectangle 2 5/8 by 3 1/4 inches (below, right). A second uncovered brass object came apart in four pieces. It was a larger hollow rectangle (3 1/2 by 4 5/6 inches) and had what appeared to be "flaps" on each side (see hollow rectangle below, left). Had these finds been borders for something—a picture frame, perhaps? But why here?

Can you solve this conundrum?

(Answer is on page 41.)

A. Gwynn Henderson, *staff archaeologist and education coordinator at the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, consulted with W. Stephen McBride, Director of Interpretation and Archeology at Camp Nelson Heritage Park.*

For more about Camp Nelson archaeology, check out "The Depot Has It" in *DIG* magazine July/August 2004, pages 26–29.

To learn more about the archaeological work McBride has conducted at Camp Nelson, click on: ***http://heritage.ky.gov/kas/kyarchynew/camp+nelson.htm***

For more about Camp Nelson Heritage Park, go to: ***www.campnelson.org/home.htm***

ART-I-FACTS

Demon's Head

A pair of bulging eyes underneath bushy eyebrows is staring at us with an intense sense of fierceness. A third eye in the middle of the forehead, two elongated ears, a predator's beak instead of a mouth, and pointed hair like blazing flames leave no doubt that this is a bad-tempered, unfriendly demon from another realm who wants only to scare us away. Phew, let's take a deep breath and calm down. What we see here is not alive! Have you ever seen anything like this? Can you guess why it was made?

Well, what we see is a tile that once decorated a roof in China at the time of the Ming dynasty. Measuring 8.5 inches long and 5 inches wide, it is made of red earthenware that is covered with a yellow glaze, except for the eyes and jewels in the tiara. These were covered in white slip (mixture of clay and water) and partly painted in green.

Glazed roof tiles in various shapes were produced in China from early times, but it was during the Ming and Qing dynasties that they became especially popular. Roof ridges and eaves were often decorated with animals, symbolic beasts, and popular gods. The ancient Chinese believed that, since the roof was the highest point of a building, it functioned as a bridge linking heaven and earth. Thus it offered the living a way to communicate with the gods. Decorative roof tiles, such as this demon, were thought to guard a building by scaring away evil spirits. Researchers have identified this creature as the God of Thunder.

—Patrick Wertmann

THEN & NOW

November/December 2016 Volume 18 Number 9 cricketmedia.com $4.95

NOW: People in the United States usually associate the word "ramen" with an instant food first developed in 1958 that includes dry noodles and a seasoning packet. In the decades that followed, ramen's popularity increased as its sales crisscrossed the globe. By 2010, 85.7 billion packs were being consumed each year.

THEN: Ramen, the noodle soup dish pictured here, is generally thought to be a Japanese food staple. However, ramen actually has Chinese origins and did not make its way to Japan until the 20th century. The word "ramen" derives from *la* ("to pull") and *mian* ("noodle").

WHAT'S THE SAME?

Whether Chinese or Japanese, homemade or instant, the comfort of eating a bowl of Asian noodle soup is timeless and has remained the same for centuries!

WHAT'S CHANGED?

The preparation and presentation have changed. The Chinese version had flat noodles in a salted, clear chicken broth. It was prepared fresh, with meat or fish and vegetables as toppings. The popular instant version features fried, curly noodles and seasoning powder that only needs water to prepare.